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LD2909123088 [Editorial Report]

Israel

Foreign Affairs—Israel is ready to start negotiations without prior conditions with a Jordanian or Palestinian delegation, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres told the UN General Assembly in remarks broadcast by Jerusalem radio.

He reaffirmed, however, that Palestinian representatives to such talks must be "men of peace and not men of violence."

The Palestinians must recognize it is possible to secure their "legitimate rights," but not at the expense of Israel's security, he asserted.

Territories—At least 10 Palestinians were wounded during further clashes with IDF soldiers in West Bank villages 28 September, THE JERUSALEM POST reported.

An Israeli woman was also injured when an object was thrown at a bus carrying Likud supporters through Nabulus.

Regarding the IDF's use of plastic bullets, UN personnel and doctors working in Gaza hospitals disclosed that eight local residents have been killed and many others injured by such bullets, Jerusalem radio reported.

In contrast, the IDF chief of staff maintained that plastic bullets have generally caused only "relatively minor wounds" among demonstrators.

In remarks carried by the radio's Arabic service, the chief of staff warned that firebomb throwers are liable to be deported or have their houses demolished.

PLO Affairs

PLO Political Department Faruq Qaddumi told the UAE's AL-ITTIHAD that the PNC will convene in Algiers 14 October, Abu Dhabi radio noted.

Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat, noted in an interview with Cairo's AL-WAFD that the PLO Executive Committee will submit three options to the PNC: the formation of a provisional government; a declaration of national independence; or both together.

The PNC will also be asked to endorse a proposal for placing the occupied territories under the aegis of the United Nations for a transitional period, he added.

Speaking in the FRG on the final leg of a European tour, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak advised the Palestinians to delay making decisions on these matters until after the U.S. and Israeli elections, MENA reported.

Mubarak said this would ensure that the Palestinians do not lose out from these issues being "exploited" in the election campaigns.

Lebanon

Five people were killed and 19 wounded by a car bomb explosion at a Syrian checkpoint in Khaldah, south of Beirut, Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Five Syrians were among the casualties.

The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon said the bomb exploded when the motorcade of Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an was passing by.

Iran

In a speech broadcast by Tehran radio, Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi stressed the need to strengthen the defense forces but questioned whether it is necessary to maintain "5 million people in combat readiness."

Retaining such large forces would undermine the reconstruction of the Armed Forces and the economy, he indicated.

Musavi also noted that big increases in electric power generation and steel production are needed to avoid bottlenecks that could paralyze the economy.

Mohammad Hashemi-Rafsanjani, managing director of Iranian television and radio, complained of the low priority given to broadcasting in budget allocations and urged the government to pay greater attention to cultural activities, according to Tehran radio and television reports.

Sudan

The SPLA's clandestine radio announced that the SPLA killed some 400 government soldiers and captured another town during recent fighting in Eastern Equatoria.

Keyala, southeast of Juba, was captured by the SPLA 25 September, the radio said, and a government force sent to relieve the town was ambushed and destroyed.

The radio also stated that SPLA forces have infiltrated into several areas of Juba.

In Khartoum, SUNA cited Ugandan reports that the SPLA has expressed a willingess to hold negotiations with Sudanese Government representatives in Kampala.

A Sudanese official cited by the agency said the government welcomes dialogue but stressed the need to be careful in accepting the SPLA offer as it might be a "political maneuver to gain time."

Afghanistan

Kabul radio gave slightly lower casualty figures than TASS for the 27 September missile attacks on the capital, stating that 33 people were killed and 127 wounded.

The radio confirmed that the highest casualties occurred near a bus stop in a crowded part of the city.

Security forces defused a 60 kg bomb found in a taxi near Kabul Stadium 29 September, according to BAKHTAR.

Mujahidin sources in London cited by IRNA claimed the mujahidin recently captured Asadabad airport, killing "at least 260" government soldiers.

Palestinian Affairs

Qaddumi Says PNC To Convene in Algiers 14 Oct

JN2809111388 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, has stressed the PNC will be held in Algiers on 14 October. He also stressed the need to establish a Palestinian state.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-ITTIHAD, published today, he said the PLO's current moves are aimed at reinforcing recognition of the Palestinian identity in the occupied territories and at removing occupation as soon as possible. He pointed out the uprising will force the Israeli enemy to join a settlement of the Palestine question.

Regarding the establishment of the Palestinian state in accordance with the partition resolution, Qaddumi said it is necessary to establish an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian territories in Palestine. He said the PLO has not yet discussed the partition resolution and that what is important is to establish a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil.

Bassam Abu Sharif on Palestinian Government

JN2809162288 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Sep 88 p 5

[Interview with Bassam Abu Sharif, political adviser to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, by Ayman Nur in Cairo—date not given]

[Text] [Nur] When will the provisional Palestinian government or government-in-exile be proclaimed? When will the PNC or Palestinian parliament convene? What resolutions are expected from it?

[Abu Sharif] The PNC will hold an emergency session in October to discuss a report presented by the PLO Executive Committee.

[Nur] What does this report, which was earlier announced had already been prepared by the PLO, contain?

[Abu Sharif] The PLO Executive Committee's report propounds three options from which the PNC can choose. The first is the formation of a provisional Palestinian government; the second is the declaration of national independence; and the third is the formation of a government and the declaration of independence.

The Executive Committee's report also proposes for PNC endorsement the idea of a short-term transitional period. This idea calls for the occupied territories to be placed under the aegis of the United Nations during this transitional period. The PNC will discuss these options on the basis of several legal and political reports, researches, and opinions which were carefully prepared by lawyers and politicians.

[Nur] What about the role of this government?

[Abu Sharif] This government, if approved by the PNC, would be the government of the entire Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories. It would be of a provisional nature and its main concern would be to continue struggle for the restoration of Palestinian rights and to look after Palestinian interests.

[Nur] What is the difference between a provisional government and a government-in-exile?

[Abu Sharif] This is a legal affair. I think those who can give accurate information about it are jurists in the first place. In any case, the Palestinian government would run affairs and have its own political program.

[Nur] Would there be a subjective difference between the government's program and the PLO's program and Charter, especially since the Palestinian government's program is expected to be based on UN Resolution No 181 of 1947 which calls for partitioning Palestine into two states?

This would subsequently lead to the recognition of Israel and to direct negotiations with it in contravention of the 1964 National Charter, which rejected partition or recognition of Israel.

[Abu Sharif] The provisional Palestinian government will have its own political program, the contents and trends of which would be primarily based on the decisions adopted by the PNC at previous sessions. The PNC alone will decide on this program.

[Nur] It was recently reported that the socialist pattern will be followed in forming the Palestinian government in a manner making the leader the party's secretary general and not the head of government. This means that the leaders of the Palestinian fronts would not head the government. Some names were also nominated to undertake this task, such as PNC Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih and Political Department chief Faruq Qaddumi. The Israeli newspapers named some other candidates such as Abu Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas], Muhammad Milhim, Nabil Sha'th, and Palestinian journalist Akram Haniyah.

[Abu Sharif] I do not want to anticipate events or jump over them by making assumptions or giving names. If your question is who will form the government, the only sound answer would be that the Palestinian parliament is the only party entitled to form a provisional government in accordance with logic and democratic concepts. The Palestinian parliament expresses and represents the people and it will form the government. I do not know about individuals.

[Nur] I cannot conceal the worry, which has increased lately due to the delay in convening the PNC and the postponement of the dates, which have been previously

set for the convening of its extraordinary session. Is this postponement due to differences on the idea of a provisional government or to fear of the splits it may cause? Does not this postponement leave a constitutional and legal vacuum as far as the West Bank and Gaza are concerned, following Jordan's decision, which was made more than 60 days ago?

[Abu Sharif] PLO Chairman Brother Yasir 'Arafat did not wait for the convening of the PNC. He took the responsibility to issue all the necessary resolutions to fill the vacuum resulting from Jordan's recent decisions to disengage ties between it and the West Bank. The Central Council, which was held in Baghdad, discussed all matters resulting from the Jordanian decision.

I would like to honestly stress to you that the report to be submitted to the PNC in its emergency session has taken all the time between Jordan's decision and the date of the convening of the conference, which will be held, God willing, in October. We wanted this report to be comprehensive, accurate, and based on mature legal and political studies.

It was necessary to complete this report in the desired form before the convening of the PNC, to which this report will be presented. Political contacts and visits to Arab and foreign states before proclaiming the Palestinian state or government were also a matter of great importance in order to know the number of states ready to recognize the Palestinian provisional government or the Palestinian state when declared.

[Nur] However, do you not feel that the length of the period poses a real threat for this plan and that this might make it lukewarm or make others lose enthusiasm for it?

[Abu Sharif] I agree with you that time is a very important factor, but in spite of its importance, this must not be at the expense of study and research. You must not overlook a very important factor, which, if you look at it, makes you certain that this plan will not become lukewarm. This factor is the uprising. Our people in the occupied territory have been and still are revolting against the occupation and insisting on continuously opposing it until this occupation is terminated and until the Palestinian people regain their rights and their homeland.

[Nur] Some people think the real reason behind postponing the PNC is to wait for the results of the Israeli elections. Is this true?

[Abu Sharif] You must know that the only, first, and foremost reason for the Palestinian decision is the Palestinian people's interest and nothing else. This does not mean we do not take into consideration developments in the region or in the world around us. We also take into consideration the events that are expected to take place. But when we take these circumstances into consideration, we do not consider them as the decisive factors, especially if these external circumstances are the Israeli elections. We are certain there is no real difference between the Labor and Likud parties. You know Rabin is the one who is currently hitting the Palestinian people.

[Nur] This means you do not admit the existence of a difference between Shamir and Peres, even if this difference is a distribution of roles.

[Abu Sharif] In essence, there is no difference. Neither of them recognizes the Palestinian people's rights. Reality shows that the decision is bilateral, led by Shamir, and the implementation is bilateral, led by Rabin.

[Nur] You have just said that some visits should have taken place before the convening of the conference. Was Abu 'Ammar's [Yasir 'Arafat's] visit to Cairo within these visits and meetings to draw support for the coming Palestinian step?

[Abu Sharif] Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo was an official visit at the invitation of President Mubarak. It was the first visit to Egypt in the wake of the Jordanian decisions. President Mubarak discussed with Abu 'Ammar all issues related to our occupied territory, Egypt's support for the Palestinian people's rights, and ways to activate the situation in the region and the world to achieve the Palestinian people's rights.

[Nur] Did you discuss the issue of establishing a Palestinian government?

[Abu Sharif] Egypt was the first country to propose the idea of a transitional government. It has maintained its support for the Palestinian people.

[Nur] Is there a connection between the date of Abu 'Ammar's visit to Cairo and President Mubarak's tour of some Western countries a few hours after his meeting with Abu 'Ammar in Cairo?

[Abu Sharif] President Mubarak's visit to Western countries was certainly one of the issues discussed by President Mubarak and Abu 'Ammar out of Egypt's support for the Palestinian stand and issue.

[Nur] Your answer to the previous question prompts me to ask about the reports affirming that the coming few days will witness a new Western initiative, specifically a French initiative.

[Abu Sharif] I can say Europe in general will play an important role in the coming few months. I believe Brother Abu 'Ammar's visit to Strasbourg played a big role in giving momentum to the European role in the Middle East. Leader Yasir 'Arafat met in Strasbourg with French and Greek ministers and discussed with them the European role in the coming stage.

[Nur] What about the stands of the two superpowers, America and the USSR? First, what about the American stand? Are there promises America will recognize a transitional Palestinian government? Is it not difficult to wrest this recognition after the American elections?

[Abu Sharif] Sooner or later the U.S. Administration will be forced to recognize the PLO if it really wants to play a genuine role in the Middle East. The U.S. Administration knows full well there is no hope of establishing peace in the region without a clear, frank recognition of the Palestinian people's right to self-determination or without the establishment of two states on the land of Palestine—Israel and Palestine.

[Nur] What about the Soviet stand? What do you say about this stand, particularly since we heard there is an understanding with regard to the recognition of the transitional Palestinian government?

[Abu Sharif] All the friends of the Palestinian people expressed strong willingness to recognize the transitional national government. I can affirm, without exaggeration, that the number of countries recognizing the Palestinian government would be far greater than those recognizing Israel. I can also affirm that many European countries would be among them.

[Nur] Allow me to move the discussion to the occupied territories and what is happening there. Do you expect Israel, in the next stage to confront the stepped-up political activity of the PLO, will resort to more oppression or carry out mass deportation operations as it previously threatened?

[Abu Sharif] Israel has chosen the iron fist policy in confronting the heroic Palestinian people and has actually resorted to all terrorist and bestial practices. We will not be surprised by any intensification in the same direction as the Israeli choice.

[Nur] What about the new Israeli satellite?

[Abu Sharif] Launching the Israeli satellite is a dangerous and aggressive act for our Arab nation if we do not confront it responsibly and seriously.

The aim of this recently launched satellite is first and foremost to spy and gather intelligence information. Its secondary aim, which is no less dangerous than the first, is to establish an aggressive and informational channel on the Arab nation. I ask the Arab League to study carefully the results of launching such a satellite and to confront them firmly.

Unfortunately, "Arabsat," the Arab satellite which was launched for the benefit of the Arab countries, is not being used for its original purposes. This has made it lose its original value. Today, we stand facing a big and dangerous challenge obliging us all to confront it.

[Nur] I would like to hear your view on what happened in Lebanon this week. What is the position of the Palestinians in 'Ayn al-Hulwah? How true are the reports on settling the Palestinians [in Lebanon]?

[Abu Sharif] The Palestinians in southern Lebanon are in the first trench defending the PLO in the face of Israel and its schemes. Unfortunately, some Arab sides are against the Palestinian people and their cause. We reject settling in any Arab country and will not accept anything other than repatriation to our country under the flag of our independent state.

[Nur] Recently, we heard that Islamic currents in the occupied territories declared their disagreement with the PLO. What effects does this have on the uprising and the unity of the Palestinian ranks?

[Abu Sharif] The PLO is the one leading the Palestinian people against the occupation. The Islamic current, which Israel at first attempted to blame for the popular uprising, is an existing current, as is the case with other nations led by numerous political currents. This current is mostly a national current fighting against the occupation. We will not slide down to the level of side conflicts wished by Israel.

The representatives of this current are members of the PNC, which includes all Palestinian trends. We are proud of the fact that Palestine, with its various leaderships, is fighting against the Israeli occupation.

Mutual PLO-Israeli Recognition Formula Reported

JN2809140288 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 27 Sep 88 p 1

[Text] Informed Palestinian sources told AL-SIYASAH that the intensive efforts and contacts made following King Husayn's decision to disengage the legal and administrative links with the West Bank have succeeded in reaching a formula stipulating mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel.

The sources confirmed the information AL-SIYASAH published yesterday on Jordanian-Egyptian efforts to bring Palestinians and Israelis together in London after the Israeli general elections in November.

The sources said mutual recognition between the PLO and Israel will take place during the joint meeting which was approved by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO, and Shim'on Peres, Israeli foreign minister and Labor Party leader. It was Peres who proposed postponing the meeting until after the Israeli elections, while 'Arafat agreed to postpone the PNC session also until after the elections.

Egypt

Tabah Arbitration Panel Upholds 'Legal Right'

NC2909145888 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1453 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Geneva, 29 Sep (MENA)—The international arbitration panel has issued its verdict, upholding Egypt's historical and legal right to Tabah.

The International Arbitration Panel also has ruled in favor of Egypt's historical and legal right to the 13 other border markers, in accordance with the old international demarcation lines observed during the British mandate over Palestine. The 13 markers, which Egypt and Israel had disputed during the process of identifying the border markers between the two countries, were included in the verdict which the panel issued today.

The text of the verdict was read by Judge Gunnar Lagergren, chairman of the arbiters team, during the public session which was held in the main conference hall in the Geneva Canton Parliament Building at 1430 Geneva local time, 1630 Cairo local time.

It was attended by representatives of the parties to the dispute, Egypt and Israel; the president of the Geneva Canton [title as received]; the Swiss justice minister; the Swedish and French ambassadors to Switzerland, because the Arbitration Tribunal includes judges from both countries; a Swiss representative, because Switzerland is represented in the tribunal; and a number of personalities and journalists from Egypt and Israel. Arbiters Chairman Lagergren had extended the invitations to attend the session. [MENA promises more]

Foreign Ministry Denies Statement

NC2809155488 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1533 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—An official Egyptian source has denied a report carried by the ASSOCIATED PRESS today, stating that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has issued a statement about the arbitration procedures connected with the Tabah issue. A ruling on this matter is due to be handed down tomorrow, Thursday.

MENA has learned that the Egyptian Foreign Ministry has not issued any such statement, as alleged by the ASSOCIATED PRESS.

Mubarak on Economic Situation, Debts, Tabah

NC2809190588 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] President Husni Mubarak and the delegation accompanying him have returned safely to the homeland following a brief 3-hour visit to the FRG, which concluded a week-long tour of Europe, which included visits to Yugoslavia, Britain, and France. Upon the president's arrival, the following dialogue took place between him and unidentified correspondents:

[Begin recording] [Correspondent] Your Excellency: Are you satisfied, following your talks in a number of European countries, with the understanding which the leaders of these countries showed toward Egypt's economic position? Did they display a desire to cooperate with Egypt in its talks with the IMF?

[Mubarak] We always have been satisfied. We are the ones who should rectify and improve our economy. Those countries do cooperate, but they are not going to feed us. Those countries understand the situation and are cooperating to the fullest extent possible. In any case, things will improve, God willing.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, the developing countries desire to cancel some of their debts so that their situation will improve.

[Mubarak] We are not talking about cancelling debts. As far as Egypt is concerned, we are talking about rescheduling and repaying in easy instalments because we cannot place excessive burdens on the people. We can sustain the situation, although there are price increases. However, reform is necessary. We are carrying out reform in steady steps. We are not talking about writing off the debts at all.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, the Egyptian people are rejoicing and, God willing, the joy will increase because signs indicate that the Egyptian Tabah and the Egyptian right will be restored. What is your comment on this subject?

[Mubarak] We will wait until the court ruling is announced tomorrow. However, the Egyptian land will remain Egyptian, God willing. [end recording]

President Husni Mubarak Visits West Europe

For French, West German, and MENA coverage of the visit of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to West Europe, including his talks with French President Mitterrand and West German Chancellor Kohl and his Bonn news conference, please see the 28 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues

Ghali Explains Tabah Verdict, Mubarak Tour Aims

PM2809160188 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Sep 88 pp 1,2

[Zaki Musa report: "Butrus Ghali Tells AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: The International Arbitration Commission's Decision Is a Victory for Peace and International Law"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT from Zaki Musa; occupied Jerusalem, Agencies—Israel yesterday confirmed that the international arbitration commission

meeting in Geneva to consider the legal aspects of the Tabah issue has ruled in favor of Egypt in the dispute between Egypt and Israel regarding the question of sovereignty over Tabah. [passage omitted]

In London, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali, in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT before leaving for Paris with President Husni Mubarak on the latter's European tour, said that the international arbitration commission's verdict is a victory for peace, for the principle of settling disputes by peaceful means, and for the rules of international law.

He said that the verdict should not be viewed as a victory for 'A' and a defeat for 'B'. We hope, he added, that it will consolidate peace in the Middle East.

On President Mubarak's tour, he said: We should differentiate between the president's visit to Belgrade and his visits to London, Paris, and Bonn. Yugoslavia is linked to the Nonaligned Movement. Two weeks ago it was elected to chair the Nonaligned conference scheduled to be held in Belgrade in September 1989.

Eleven months separate us from that conference, which will be one of the Nonaligned Movement's most important. The conference will be held against the background of new U.S.-Soviet rapprochement. There are new world-level equations which require new methods of work by the Nonaligned Movement.

He added: The aim of the visit is to coordinate Egyptian and Yugoslav diplomacies as a first step toward renewing the method of work within the Nonaligned Movement as well as to discuss bilateral relations and the Palestinian question.

He continued: As regards the visits to Britain and France, both these countries are permanent members of the Security Council and can play a part at an international conference and within the EC. Egyptian diplomacy believes that attention must be focused on the Palestinian question and, in this context the group which can do that at this stage is the EC.

He said that it is not true that the purpose of the tour is economic. He added: There is an economic aspect to bilateral relations. Undoubtedly, when we met with the Yugoslav ministers we discussed bilateral relations, and that covers diplomatic, trade, and economic aspects. There are political and economic relations, but the objective differs from one country to another. The prime objective of our tour remains the Palestinian cause.

He said that Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Egypt 12 hours before President Mubarak embarked on his tour was for the purpose of consultation, and so the president's tour is a tour in defense of the Palestinian cause. He added: After that comes the economic issues, of course. It has been said that Egypt will ask the various states to help Egypt in connection with the IMF. That, too, is true. There are contacts with IMF and there is agreement between Egypt and the IMF on the main principles and disagreement on some details. I believe that the differences will be resolved in one way or another.

He said that Mubarak's meeting with 'Arafat was part of the continuous consultations between Egypt and the PLO both at summit level, as in the case of the Cairo meeting, and at the level of experts or ministers. He added that there is full coordination between the two sides and that Egypt is trying, as far as possible, to play the role of mediator between the PLO and all the parties concerned with the Middle East crisis.

He asserted that Egypt still holds the same view, which is that there should be close cooperation. That, he said, was the view before the disengagement between the Jordanian and Palestinian diplomacies and it remains so after that disengagement.

On the question of a government-in-exile, he said that as a general principle Egypt supports the PLO.

He added: We believe that it is important that there should be no haste, lest the Palestinian decision be exploited in the U.S. or Israeli election campaigns and lest it become an issue for upstaging in the elections.

On the Lebanese crisis, he said: We are in contact with the various Lebanese sides and are trying, to the best of our ability, to offer advice. We hope that the new Lebanese president will be a president of reconciliation and for all the Lebanese. We still hope that the parties concerned will be able to overcome the current contradictions, and we hope that election of a new president will be a first step toward Lebanese national reconciliation and national unity so that Lebanon may again play its leading and pionereering cultural and intellectual role in the Arab world, as it did in the past.

He said that dialogue between the two Lebanese governments could achieve all that. The Egyptian position, he said, is the old, traditional position which maintains that, if all states refrain from interfering in Lebanon's affairs, that will be a contribution to promoting national reconciliation.

On the issue of the Egyptian prisoners in Iran, he said: We are in contact with the Red Cross and we have high hopes that the matter will be resolved as soon as possible. There can be no doubt that the release of 16 Egyptian sailors was an initial step which, we hope, will be followed by other steps.

He said that Italy played a part in the release.

'Voice of Arabs' on Campaign Against Al-Qadhdhafi

NC2809221188 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 1953 GMT 28 Sep 88

[From "The Voice of the Libyan People" program]

[Text] As is usual when he addresses others, defeated charlatan Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi made a speech on 31 August 1988 which departed from the rules of accepted good manners and was full of obscenities, abuse, and attacks. He used this speech, which emphasized his foul mouth, to vent his hatred against the Arab states and their leaders, particularly the great sister Egypt and its leader Brother President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. In all his attacks and obscenities, defeated charlatan Al-Qadhdhafi reveals a rancorous and sick mentality which does not like to see an Arab solidarity and the existence of strong ties among the Arab states.

He blatantly and overtly says that he is very much offended by the decision of the Arab states to restore their relations with the great sister Egypt. He claims that these states have restored relations on the orders of the United States and in the presence of its representatives, disregarding the independence of the Arab states' decisionmaking and their freedom. He forgets that he himself has been seeking the favor of the Americans through his overt and covert Libyan and non-Libyan emissaries and mediators.

Charlatan Al-Qadhdhafi claims that the restoration by the Arab states of their relations with Egypt will serve neither the interests of the Arab nation nor of the Palestinian people. The defeated charlatan forgets or pretends to forget that the Arab states have restored their relations with Egypt on the basis of their own choice and on their own free volition after they discovered that Egypt's separation from the Arab world was not and would not be in the interests of any of the two parties. Most of the Arab nation's leaders have testified that Egypt under President Husni Mubarak has never failed to support the rights of any other Arab country. Egypt always has been among the first to respond to the appeals of the Arab brothers.

For example, after a short estrangement, Egypt supported the PLO when it was surrounded in Tripoli, Lebanon, by its former allies Al-Qadhdhafi and Al-Asad, with the participation of Israel. Egypt stood alongside Iraq in defending its territory and repulsing the successive Iranian invasions, at a time when defeated charlatan Al-Qadhdhafi supported Iran and supplied it with weapons and missiles which rained on Baghdad. Egypt supported the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when Israel threatened to destroy the Chinese missiles. Egypt declared at that time that, if this threat were implemented, its relations with Israel would be terminated.

After all this, which is only a drop in the ocean, can Egypt be accused of cowardice and treason? If it is Egypt's fate to lead the Arab nation and adopt such stands with regard to the Arab nation's issues, then what has the regime of defeated charlatan Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi done for the sake of the issues pertaining to the Arabs' destiny? What has that regime done over the past 19 years other than to utter its empty words and songs?

What has this regime done other than to divide the ranks of the one Arab nation? What has the regime of defeated charlatan Mu'ammar done other than to scatter the efforts of this nation and tear its amicable ties asunder? What has the regime of defeated charlatan Mu'ammar done other than to plot against the Arab governments, export terrorism, and shake stability in their lands?

Egypt has shouldered its responsibility and stood alongside the Libyan people since the era of Italian colonialism. Will Egypt's reward for this be such attacks and this disgraceful deterioration in the language of charlatan Al-Qadhdhafi? What is Egypt's guilt if charlatan Al-Qadhdhafi has wasted the wealth of his people and country, committed massacres, erected scaffolds for his citizens, and physically liquidated them everywhere, at a time when President Husni Mubarak was doing his best to build the future of his people and take care of the interests of his country, our great sister Egypt?

We tell Egypt not to heed the abuse of defeated charlatan Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. We assure the Egyptian people that the relations between our Libyan and Egyptian peoples will remain eternal, God willing. They only have been disturbed by the presence of this defeated charlatan, Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. Our struggling Libyan people are working to overthrow the regime of this defeated charlatan, who will disappear, God willing. Amity and serenity between our two countries will be restored shortly, God willing.

Opposition Leader Views Al-Qadhdhafi's 'Crimes'

NC2809141688 Cairo MENA in English 1241 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 28 (MENA)—Secretary General of the National Front for the Salvation of Libya, Muhammad Yusuf al-Muqaryif, said Al-Qadhdhafi's crimes against the Libyan people and the Arab nation should not be pardoned.

At a meeting of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee at the Egyptian Press Syndicate last night, Al-Muqaryif said Al-Qadhdhafi's rule was one of oppression, tyranny, terrorism and sabotage and was entirely against the aspirations of the Libyan people. Al-Muqaryif said Al-Qadhdhafi was carrying out a dubious role and was serving the schemes of the enemies of the Arab nation.

His actions were tantamount to treason and should not be pardoned, he said.

Al-Muqaryif said Al-Qadhdhafi's hostile attitude towards Egypt was only a continuation of the shameful attitude which Al-Qadhdhafi had adopted during the October 1973 war. Al-Qadhdhafi was condemned by all Arab peoples for his attacks on Egypt. Al-Qadhdhafi was also condemned for his continued efforts to carry out sabotage work against the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people. Efforts have been continually made by Al-Qadhdhafi to cause division in the PLO which served Israeli interests.

Al-Qadhdhafi also shamefully challenged the will of the Arab people by siding with Iran in its war with Iraq and by his hostile attitudes towards neighbouring Arab Maghreb countries and also his sabotage activities against a number of African countries.

Al-Muqaryif said that it served the interests of countries which are hostile to the Arab nation that Al-Qadhdhafi remained in power in Libya.

He was being supported by hostile countries in order to undermine the national interests of the Arab nation.

Al-Muqaryif explained that the National Front for the Salvation of Libya had two aims: to bring about the downfall of Al-Qadhdhafi and to enable the Libyan people to choose a system of government which was nationalist, constitutional and democratic.

During the meeting a film was shown showing the suffering of the Libyan people under Al-Qadhdhafi. The film showed detainees in prisons and the hanging of Al-Qadhdhafi's opponents.

The film also showed Colonel Khalifah Abu al-Qasim Haftar, commander of Libyan forces in Chad, addressing a press conference in which he announced joining the National Front for the Salvation of Libya.

The film showed meetings held by the National Front for the Salvation of Libya to rid the Libyan people of Al-Qadhdhafi. The film depicted the "Bab al-'Aziziyah" operation which was carried out by the Libyans and attempted to assassinate Al-Qadhdhafi in 1984.

UAE Deputy Prime Minister Makes Official Visit

Received by Mubarak

NC2109173688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1427 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 Sep (MENA)—President Mubarak has received UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Hamad Al Nuhayyan. Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi said after the meeting that, during the audience, President Mubarak received a message from his brother UAE President Shaykh Zayid dealing with all the issues of concern to the two countries, foremost among which are bilateral relations, the Middle East issue, and peace between Iraq and Iran.

Sidqi said that the good relations between Egypt and the UAE are evidence of the complete understanding between the two countries and of their stands on all important issues, which are almost identical. The prime minister pointed out that President Mubarak and Shaykh Hamdan discussed the issues of the Arab region as a whole, including the Palestinian issue, developments in the peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran, and the post-war situation in the Gulf.

Commenting on the current Egyptian-UAE talks, Sidqi said that the bilateral talks being held by the specialized ministers are due to end this evening. he added that the two delegations will meet either tomorrow morning or afternoon, when a joint communique on the visit will be issued. Two agreements will also be signed. The first deals with cultural cooperation and the other falls within the framework of financial cooperation, including double taxation and other provisions relating to joint investment ventures.

Referring to the UAE development fund, Sidqi said that, through its contribution in the form of loans, the fund will participate in land reclamation projects in western Al-Nubariyah and in some tourism projects in the Sinai, Al-Ghardaqah, and Luxor areas, noting that these projects have been agreed upon beforehand. A contract founding a joint tourism company will be signed today or tomorrow, he added.

Regarding his view of the situation in the Gulf after peace has been established there, the prime minister said that all the current inter-Arab consultations deal with this very important issue. The Iraq-Iran war lasted for nearly 8 years and when the war ends with the conclusion of accords on peace and good-neighborliness, conditions in the region must be rearranged. He noted that this war was about to develop into a world war and that the great powers began to interfere in the region.

Meanwhile, Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, replied to reporters' questions about the recent U.S. remarks on Iraq's use of chemical weapons against the Kurds and the Egyptian efforts exerted in this respect. He said: We had stressed to the U.S. ambassador the need to concentrate on the peace negotiations and not to get involved in secondary issues which will be of no use to actions for peace. [passage omitted]

Joint Communique Issued

NC2309103688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0913 GMT 23 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 23 Sep (MENA)—The Arab Republic of Egypt and the UAE have expressed hope that the various Lebanese factions will reach an acceptable solution regarding the presidential elections so that Lebanon's unity and stability can be preserved.

In a joint communique issued on the visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt by UAE Acting Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan, both countries expressed their satisfaction with the start of direct negotiations between Iraq and Iran and stressed the importance of continuing these talks to reach a just, acceptable, and comprehensive solution in the region. The two sides emphasized the importance of concentrating regional and international efforts on the main issues in the Iraq-Iran conflict; namely, securing a comprehensive peace, resolving all problems between them, and avoiding any marginal issues.

Regarding the situation in the Arab and international arenas, both parties discussed the latest developments in the Palestinian issue. They expressed their support for the Palestinian people's uprising in the occupied Arab territory as well as their hope that the PLO will adopt a decision which will realize the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights.

The statement noted that both parties reviewed with satisfaction the steady growth in their bilateral ties and their mutual cooperation in all areas. The two sides expressed their resolve to increase the volume of trade exchanges, in implementation of the agreement calling for increased trade exchanges and economic and technical cooperation, and for encouraging investment, which was signed in July. The UAE welcomed its participation in Cairo's Islamic Fair. It also noted that it will host a fair for Egyptian products in the UAE in December with the aim of exhibiting the two 'countries' national products to promote bilateral trade.

In the field of investment, the Egyptian side expressed its appreciation of the UAE's investment in development projects in Egypt, particularly in the areas of land reclamation and tourism. Both parties reviewed the steps that have been taken to implement a plan to reclaim 155 feddan west of Al-Nubariyah, which is being carried out in two stages. The first stage involves the reclamation of 65 feddans, which will be financed by the Abu Dhabi Development Fund as a soft loan at a cost of $75 million. The implementation of this project will begin before the end of this year.

Both parties welcomed the signing of a contract to establish the Abu Dhabi Tourist Investment Company, which His Excellency Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan instructed be established with a capital of 100 million Egyptian pounds. The company will build tourist villages in Al-Ghardaqah and Sinai, a hotel in Luxor, and operate tourist vessels between Luxor and Aswan and between Sharm al-Shaykh and Al-Ghardaqah. It also will be involved in other investments in several tourist fields.

The communique pointed out that the two sides have agreed to conclude an agreement to prevent dual taxation between the two countries. The draft agreement will be exchanged in October.

With regard to bilateral cooperation, the two sides welcomed the signing of the cultural, educational, and scientific cooperation agreement, which constitutes an all-encompassing framework to strengthen cooperation between the two countries in the various domains of culture, information, education, scientific research, and youth and sports.

In the field of manpower cooperation, the Egyptian and UAE sides noted with satisfaction that citizens of each state are accorded identical treatment in the other state. This is compatible with the fraternal relations linking the two fraternal countries. The UAE affirmed its appreciation of the role which the Egyptian workers are playing in carrying out the great development there. The March 1987 agreement organizing the use of Egyptian manpower in the UAE represents an important step along the road of cooperation in this field.

With regard to cooperation in the field of social security affairs, the two sides agreed to study a draft agreement in the field of social security and the exchange of visits by experts in the field of the care of handicapped and elderly, as well as in the field of small traditional industries in order to exchange know-how and experience. The establishment of the Egyptian fair in the UAE will be used as a means to exhibit products of the productive families [Al-Usar al-Muntijah] to explain the project's objectives and to sell its products.

The communique noted the signing of an agreement for the formation of a joint higher committee for cooperation between the two countries under the chairmanship of the two prime ministers or those representing them. The committee will meet alternately in the two capitals.

The communique described the official and popular reception accorded Shaykh Hamdan Al Nuhayyan and the delegation accompanying him in Egypt as an expression of the ties of amity linking the two fraternal people, the fraternal relationship between Presidents Mubarak and Shaykh Zayid, an appreciation of the UAE's role, and an endless desire to consolidate its close cooperation with Egypt. It also is a tribute to the UAE's role to achieve Arab solidarity and coordinate efforts to realize the Arab nation's supreme interests and face up to its fateful issues.

Departs 24 Sep

NC2409185188 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 Sep 88

[Text] UAE Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Hamdan ibn Muhammad Al Nuhayyan and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo this evening at the conclusion of a 4-day visit. During his stay the UAE official met with President Mubarak and held several meetings with Dr 'Atif Sidqi to discuss aspects of cooperation between Egypt and the UAE in various fields.

Prior to his departure, Shaykh Hamdan expressed his satisfaction with the results of his visit and with the progress of the fraternal realtions between the two countries, which have been established by His Highness Shaykh Zayid and President Mubarak.

PLO Official Meets Sidqi, Praises Stands

NC2709132388 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1243 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 27 Sep (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi has received PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani. Following the meeting, Al-Surani said that he and Dr Sidqi had reviewed Palestinian, Arab, and international developments. The PLO official described the meeting as friendly, positive, and constructive, noting that their viewpoints were identical. He pointed out that the meeting has taken place prior to the PNC session scheduled to be held in Algiers in October.

Al-Surani praised Egypt's firm stand and support for the Palestinian people's rights, foremost of which are the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil. He also lauded Egypt's position, which was evident at the meeting which Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, had held with U.S. President Reagan in the presence of Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

Lutfi Meets With Palestinian Officials

NC2809135988 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1252 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, 28 Sep (MENA)—Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi has asserted the Egyptian leadership's interest in the Palestinian issue, saying that President Husni Mubarak has been exerting great efforts to reach a just and comprehensive solution of the Palestinian issue. Dr Lutfi stated this today when he received PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani and Zuhdi al-Qudrah, Fatah representative and the PLO's charge d'affaires in Cairo.

After the meeting, Al-Surani praised Egyptian-Palestinian relations and said that Egyptian officials display the utmost concern and support for the Palestinian cause. He noted that the meeting between President Husni Mubarak and PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat came within the framework of their consultations, coordination, and cooperation in the service of the Palestinian cause, to bring about the restoration of the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, foremost among which is the right to self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Awqaf Minister Cited on Dialogues With Jihad

PM2209090988 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 21-27 Sep 88 p 11

[Interview with Awqaf Minister Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub by Hazim al-Shinnawi in Cairo; date not given]

[Text] [Al-Shinnawi] It has recently been reported that you intend to hold a series of dialogues with the Al-Jihad Organization. What will be the nature of such dialogues?

[Mahjub] Numerous ideological issues are being raised currently in Egypt, giving rise to many questions and uncertainties. Some of these issues are religious. We therefore aim to discuss them with the Al-Jihad Organization to clarify the legitimate views so that everything will be clear with no room for doubt. As I said, there are uncertainties which require convincing answers. That is what we need and hope to achieve in the coming period.

[Al-Shinnawi] Have any actual steps been taken toward such a dialogue?

[Mahjub] At present we are still trying to organize a dialogue in agreement with some honorable ulema who are our liaison with the Al-Jihad Organization leaderships. We hope these negotiations will succeed so that we may be able to start a series of dialogues in the near future.

[Al-Shinnawi] It has been rumored that the dialogue is being initiated on the instruction of certain official circles. How true is that?

[Mahjub] The dialogue is my own initiative. Nothing can change this fact.

[Al-Shinnawi] You were one of the first people to contribute to the dialogue with the Islamic groups since the opinion seminars began. The question now is: Do you believe that the dialogue could play a part in correcting the erroneous views held by some young people?

[Mahjub] Certainly. Everything is based on an exchange of views. Meeting argument with counterargument is something to be desired. It is our duty to correct that ideology, underline the facts, and eliminate any confusion which might ultimately lead the young to adopt unsound principles and views. That is why the dialogue going on between the Muslim ulema and members of the Islamic groups in the opinion seminars is considered to be a healthy phenomenon which will, in the end, dispel the cloud hanging over those who make claims that run contrary to the Islamic shari'a. Anyone following these seminars and dialogues can distinguish between good and bad. This also is one of the main aims of these dialogues.

[Al-Shinnawi] It has been rumored that the opinion seminar which began after the assassination of President Anwar al-Sadat was a government function run by Egyptian security organs. To what extent do you agree with that?

[Mahjub] That is not true, but I would like to ask those who voice such an opinion: Are the Egyptian security organs Egyptian or not? If we agree that they are Egyptian then we must say that all the state's political, executive, and popular bodies should, along with the religious leaderships, participate in the dialogue to protect Egypt's youth against extremist trends.

[Al-Shinnawi] As Awqaf [religious trusts] minister, do you support the use of violence against those who uphold extremist ideologies?

[Mahjub] It has certainly been established that an exchange of views and arguments is the best way but sometimes matters are carried beyond the realm of expressing views when attempts are made to impose certain views by force and the only way to deal with that is through intervention by the authorities to restore normal conditions and make it possible for dialogue to proceed. Expression of views is a desired thing and so also is intervention by the authorities in some cases.

[Al-Shinnawi] Some of the extremist groups refuse to have a dialogue with Christian men of religion on the grounds that they are attached to the authorities. What is your position on that?

[Mahjub] We wish such people guidance. Men of religion do not sell out or abandon their conscience to please the authorities.

Kuwaiti Fund Official Views Assistance

NC2509134588 Cairo MENA in English 1313 GMT 25 Sep 88

[Text] Cairo, Sept 25 (MENA)—Vice Chairman of the Kuwaiti Fund for Economic Development, 'Abd al-Wahab al-Badr, said today Kuwait supported Egypt in its negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

Kuwait was ready to give any assistance which Egypt might request during the talks because Egypt is entitled to obtain her allocations from the two international institutions in order to support Egypt's development plan, he said.

In an interview with MIDDLE EAST NEWS AGENCY (MENA), Al-Badr said Arab financial institutions could together finance a large number of development projects, in Egypt in addition to the contributions of international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF in order to help in the development of Egyptian economy.

The Kuwaiti official said he hoped that the coming stage would witness more cooperation between Egypt and Arab financial funds (whether the Kuwaiti Development Fund or the Saudi or Abu Dhabi funds).

Al-Badr said officials in the Kuwaiti Development Fund have asked the Egyptian Ministry of International Fund have asked the Egyptian Ministry of International Cooperation to present a number of projects included in Egypt's development plan.

These projects would be studied with a view to considering financing them by the Kuwaiti Development Fund. The projects would be in the fields of infrastructure (irrigation, roads, communication and industrial and agricultural projects).

Al-Badr pointed out that the Kuwaiti Development Fund has been active in Egypt since 1964. Its operations continued until 1978. The fund advanced ten loans, the latest was for the widening of the Suez Canal. Advancing loans was resumed in 1987 when a 20-million dollar loan was given to build wave breakers to protect the coast of Rosetta in the Nile Delta, a second 17-million dollar loan was given to Egypt early this year to develop the Egyptian pharmaceutical industry.

Opposition Urged To Rescind Election Boycott

JN2209093588 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 20 Sep 88 p 6

[Text] Ahmad al-Sabahi, leader of Al-Ummah Party, yesterday called on the opposition party leaders to amend their stands, rectify their conditions, go back on their decision to boycott the local council elections, and immediately decide to take part in these elections on the basis that the boycott constitutes a negative political inaction which is incompatible with the traditions of party politics.

Addressing a news conference at the party headquarters yesterday, the Al-Ummah Party leader asked the government to delay the elections for 1 month in order to give ample time to the parties to prepare themselves properly for the election campaign to enrich democracy in Egypt.

Ahmad al-Sabahi affirmed that Al-Ummah Party's decision on the elections was backed unanimously by the members of the party political bureau under the consideration that maintaining a negative attitude and staying away from masses in elections make those masses passive and indifferent.

Al-Sabahi said: Although Al-Ummah Party had previously decided with the other opposition parties to boycott the next local council elections, it has the right to revise and rectify its stand and to adopt the more appropriate decision that serves democratic political action.

Al-Sabahi appealed to the opposition parties to stop their unjustified accusations againat Al-Ummah Party, noting that the decision to participate in the elections was taken in the interest of the Party and that it was not the result of consultations with the NDP leadership or government officials.

Al-Sabahi said that the party will enter the elections in at least 200 of the 1318 constituencies in the Republic and hopes to win more than 80 percent of the votes in those constituencies.

Energy Minister Discusses Power Generation Plans

NC2909084288 Paris AFP in English 0827 GMT 29 Sep 88

[By Magda Abu-Fadil]

[Text] Cairo, Sept 29 (AFP)—The heavy rains that triggered disastrous floods in Sudan earlier this year have proved a blessing for Egypt, pushing the dangerously low waters of the Nile River back up to safe levels,

Electricity and Energy Minister Mahir Abazah said in an interview with AFP.

The water-level in Lake Nasir behind the Aswan High Dam in Upper Egypt has climbed back up after dropping perilously close to a point that would have made electricity generation impossible.

"We started making emergency plans when we thought there would be a shortfall this July," the minister said.

"We feared a drop to 147 meters (482 feet) by next year, which would have meant our generating turbines grinding to a halt."

Instead, the lake has risen from 150 meters to 165 meters (541 feet) in the past two months, enabling the dam to provide maximum electrical output.

Following the near-disaster, Egypt has plans to diversify its sources of power generation, and has signed a contract with West German firms to build small emergency generating stations to boost electricity supplies by some 1,750 megawatts—an amount almost equal to the output of the High Dam.

Egyptian electric power, which faces annual consumption increases of 10 per cent, will also be boosted by a regional and international network in coming years to supplement its domestic sources.

Mr. Abazah has proposed a hook-up with various Arab countries through which electricity could be traded and sold.

"I saw that we were an isolated network and suggested we start with a joint Jordanian-Egyptian company," to be financed by Arab and French funds, he said.

The project, still in the preliminary stages, is to be presented for parliamentary and cabinet approval by year's end for funding estimated at 150 million dollars.

The minister added that a "friendly Arab country," which he declined to name, was amenable to underwriting the project. The operation had already been reviewed by a consulting group from France's national utility company, Electricite de France.

A second stage is expected to extend the link from jordan to Turkey, which itself is connected to a major European network.

Egypt, in the throes of an internal debate over whether to rely on nuclear power generation, has suspended plans to build a nuclear station west of the Mediterranean coastal city of Alexandria.

"The Egyptian Government still thinks the matter should be reviewed carefully after the Chernobyl disaster, and the Egyptian people need convincing," Mr. Abazah said, referring to the 1986 nuclear disaster in the Soviet Union.

Since the Chernobyl accident, the Wafd Party has drummed up fears of a similar disaster occurring in Egypt.

"This is a political issue and still under review," Mr. Abazah said. "Mind you, we haven't rejected it, it's just a matter of timing."

Egypt's heavily subsidized electricity industry has been criticized by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF), both of which hold sway over major lending and development projects for hte economically-strapped economy.

The World Bank is currently holding back 800 million dollars in economic assistance needed for industry, agriculture and power—of which 220 million dollars were to be allocated for electricity-related projects.

An IMF delegation is due in Cairo next month for talks on rescheduling a portion of Egypt's 41-billion-dollar external debt.

Libya

'Second Batch' of Chadian POW's Released

LD2809182688 Tripoli JANA in English 1652 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Fatih [September] 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The second batch of Chadian prisoners of war (POW) who have been released this morning in response to the gift from the leader of the revolution presented to the silver jubilee of the Organization of African Unity (OAU). [sentence as received]

One of the POWS expressed to JANA his thanks to the leader on this humane gesture and to the Libyan Arab brothers who treated them humanely saying:

"We were receiving humane treatment. It was not a treatment of prisoners but that of brothers—between Libyans and Chadians."

Al-Qadhdhafi Sends Message to Olympics Chairman

LD2109181588 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1455 GMT 21 Sep 88

[Text] Tripoli, 21 Sep (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has adressed a message to the chairman of the Olympic Games committee in Seoul. The following is the text:

Mr Chairman of the 24th session of the Olympic games, Seoul:

The Olympic Games session is organized in Seoul, in South Korea, as it had previously been organized in

other countries of the world. The door is open for the practice of kinds of sports that have no link with people's lives and effective interests, for the simple reason that the masses are kept apart from the practice of sports. Their role is limited to watching, without participating, from stands and platforms.

They are submitted to numerous types of psychological and informational venalities that chain their will and turn them into beings who accept any form of competitions and games from which they are kept apart.

However, what draws the greatest attention in the games organized by the Olympic sessions are:

First: the practice of sports characterized by violence and savagery, such as boxing and wrestling between individuals, and bullfighting. The savagery shown by this kind of sport confirms that mankind has not yet overcome the age of savagery and barbarism.

I am convinced that this type of sport necessarily will disappear when mankind achieves higher steps of progress on the ladder of civilization, as has disappeared, in the past, other types of struggles and competitions with arms which had been practiced as sports.

Those who endeavor to avoid practicing and encouraging violent sports are more civilized and reasonable. They open horizons before the masses to practice sports as their natural right, faring in this as in the practice of political power, and the ownership of wealth and arms, which is the only way to free these social, political, and economic activities from the monopoly of the minority or the dictatorship of individuals or groups.

Second, sports are a general thing that express a collective need among the masses. The practice of a sport by an individual is something that concerns only this individual within his limited milieu and which is closed to the masses.

Thus, it is pretentious and absurd for anyone to practice a sport on its own behalf for, from the physical side, no one can pass on to the masses the benefits acquired from sports, as this only can be done if the masses practice the sport themselves.

This is because the individual or the numerically limited group cannot represent the wide masses as far as its sporting needs are concerned. Consequently, the regulations governing sports, clubs, and the stadiums and stands are in reality nothing but frameworks for instruments through which sporting activity is monopolized for the benefit of a limited number of people.

This is a situation that consolidates prevailing concepts in favor of the monopolization of power and wealth by an individual, a number of individuals, or a party to represent in reality the people or the entire masses.

The proper stance, consolidating the position of sports as a general social activity, is linked to the presence and freedom of the masses. It (?also) requires, as a matter of necessity, the cancellation of (?all) types of violent sports: such as boxing, wrestling, and bullfighting.

This would liberate sports from the remnants of primitive traditions and barbarism.

[Signed] Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi

Mauritania

CMSN Official Returns From Visit to Algeria

AB2709155488 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Colonel Sid' Ahmed, permanent secretary of the CMSN, returned to Nouakchott last night from Algiers. He told the MAURITANIAN NEWS AGENCY upon arrival that he delivered a message from Col Maaouya Ould Sid 'Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, to his brother and friend President Chadli Bendjedid.

He added that, in return, President Chadli Bendjedid asked him to convey his greetings and wishes for happiness and prosperity to the head of state and to the Mauritanian people and government.

The CMSN permanent secretary took the opportunity to voice his gratitude to the Algerian people and government for the generous hospitality and the warm welcome given him throughout his Algerian visit, during which he was accompanied by [name indistinct], executive secretary for mobilization at the permanent secretariat of the CMSN.

French Cooperation Minister To Visit Nouakchott

AB2809210388 Paris AFP in French 1827 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpts] French Cooperation Minister Jacques Pelletier is expected on 29 September in Nouakchott, where he will lead the French delegation to the meeting of the French-Mauritanian Joint Cooperation Commission scheduled for the same day.

Mr Pelletier, who will stay in Nouakchott until 1 October, will also hold talks on bilateral cooperation and current issues with Mauritanian officials, it was learned from reliable Mauritanian sources.

As far as cooperation is concerned, France, it must be recalled, ranks first among Mauritania's partners. Its assistance to this country's economic development has considerably increased over the past 3 years. [passage omitted]

The joint commission, whose deliberations began yesterday at the level of experts, will review this cooperation which has been described as "rich and multifaceted" by the Mauritanians. [passage omitted]

Government Moves To Improve Detention Conditions
AB2709215988 Paris AFP in French 1839 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Nouakchott, 27 Sep (AFP)—None of the black African prisoners held at the Walata Camp (southeastern Mauritania) has died since the writer Tene Youssouf Gueye and former Army officer Ba Alhassane Oumar died in early September, it was learned today from an authorized source.

It was also learned from the same source that an official mission led by a high-ranking officer of the National Guard (the number two man of the Guard, according to information which has not been confirmed officially) is currently visiting Walata to examine the detention conditions.

According to independent sources, the mission's visit there is linked to the death of writer Youssouf Gueye. He had been sentenced to only 4 years' imprisonment and his death has deeply affected the Francophone intellectual community.

The source also said that a health unit has been set up at the prison and that the Mauritanian Red Crescent has brought some equipment and "necessary items."

Last week in Nouakchott sources reported the death of several black African detainees over the past few weeks. It is to be recalled that all the black-African detainees at Walata were sentenced last October for their part in a coup attempt.

The death of two of them, Francophone writer Tene Youssouf Gueye and former Army officer Ba Alhassane Oumar, was announced in Dakar by the black-African opposition and was not disclosed in Nouakchott by official or authorized sources until today.

According to various sources, the detention conditions at Walata are extremely harsh.

The detainees are reportedly chained most of the time because of a lack of guards. They are reportedly subjected to unbearable climatic conditions (notably during this rainy season) and to a forced diet due to the poor supply of food in town.

The Walata prison, a real death house for the black opposition to the "white regime," which is made up of Arab Berbers, uses the infrastructure—which have never been renovated—of a former military fort dating back to the beginning of the century.

For 3 days there have been rumors among the black opposition to the Nouakchott regime concerning the death of Lieutenant Abdoul Khoudous Ba, who was extradited from Algeria to Mauritania for his participation in the 22 October black-African plot. Abdoul Khoudouss Ba, a military engineering specialist and a public works engineer trained in Canada, received a life sentence at the end of the trial.

Morocco

Sultan of Brunei, Delegation Arrive 27 Sep
LD2809135888 Rabat MAP in English 1158 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Rabat-Sept-28-(MAP)—Sultan Haji Bolkiah Hassanal of Brunei arrived here Tuesday afternoon on a state visit to Morocco.

The sultan was welcomed upon arrival at the Rabat-Sale airport by King Hassan II who was accompanied by Crown Prince Sidi Mohamed and Prince Moulay Rachid.

The state visit will be followed by a private stay to last till Friday.

Sultan Haji Hassanal is accompanied by a large delegation including the minister of finance, the grand (?chamberlain) and member of the sultan's Consultative Council, the minister of the interior, the minister of religious affairs, and several other top officials.

Brunei Darussalam (abode of peace) is located on the northern coast of the Island of Borneo, with an area of 5,765 square kilometers and population of 227,000 out of whom 25,000 are temporary residents.

Brunei Darussalam recovered its independence on January 7, 1979 with the United Kingdom. Sultan Haji Hassanal then proclaimed Brunei Darussalam a sovereign, independent, democratic, Muslim monarchy according to the Sunni belief, and became later member of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Brunei's economy is almost entirely based on its important resources of oil and gas that were discovered as early as 1920.

The revenues of these resources are more than 80 percent of the GNP and 98 percent of the total value of exports.

USSR Friendship Delegation Head Hails Visit

LD2709131488 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Rabat, Sept 27 (MAP)—The Moroccan-USSR relations are remarkably evolving thanks to the efforts of the two governments and the "USSR-Morocco" and the "Morocco-USSR" friendship societies, Georgiy Veselov, education minister of the Federative Republic of Russia and chairman of the "USSR-Morocco" Friendship Society, has said here Monday.

During a meeting with the press, Veselov expressed satisfaction at the results of the visit he and the "USSR-Morocco" Society delegation accompaning him have paid to several provinces and towns of Morocco.

The delegation, he went on, had conferred with several Moroccan officials including Minister of National Education Mohamed Hilali, Minister of Cultural Affairs Mohamed Benaissa, the Wali [governor] of Rabat-Sale Omar Benchemsi and several other governors.

The delegation also met officials of the committees of the regional cultural associations and societies as well as delegates of youth and children societies, Veselov added.

The discussion between Veselov and the press dealt with other issues such as the Middle East, the larger Maghreb, the opening of other Soviet cultural centers in other Moroccan towns, Moroccan students in the USSR...

Osman Discusses Maghreban Union Meeting

LD2609134288 Rabat MAP in English 1219 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Rabat, Sept 26 (MAP)—A draft project on the Maghreban union will submit to the inter-Maghreban commission due to convene here next October 24 said Speaker of the House of Representatives Ahmed Osman who led the Moroccan delegation to the works of the Maghreban Organizations and Structural Committee held last week in Tripoli, Libya.

In an exclusive interview with the pro-governmental daily "LE MATIN DU SAHARA" published Sunday, Osman said "we have set up a working committee to sum up the proposals made by every delegation. We have not reached a homogenous and definite stand. We shall however submit to the inter-Maghreban commission two work documents".

The first, Osman explained, is a survey of the addresses and suggestions made during the Tripoli meeting while the second will be in the form of a draft project on the Maghreban union.

Osman recalled that during the Tripoli meeting every delegation submitted a draft project on the Maghreban structures. The Libyan project, he said, was very different from the four others (Algeria, Tunisia, Mauritania, Morocco) as Libya suggested right from the beginning, the edification of a supra-federal state with all the attributes of sovereignty and the distinct attributes of every member states.

The other projects suggested, for the time being, the discussion of the various organizational phases as the ones covered by other communities such as the European Economic Community.

One can say that the Libyan project is the ideal, the ultimate goal that we might reach after overcoming all the difficulties and after covering various phases, Osman said.

Sudan

Museveni Says SPLA Seeking Negotiations

JN2809111588 Khartoum SUNA in English 1025 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 28 (SUNA)—[Ugandan] President Yoweri Museveni has informed Sudan's charge d'affaires in Kampala that the rebel movement of Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) was ready to negotiate a peaceful settlement for South Sudan problem and that the SPLA was ready to negotiate with the government in Kampala [as received] any time, it was reported today.

The papers meanwhile quoted state minister at the Foreign Ministry as saying that the ministry did not receive such a message from President Yoweri Museveni. He said the ministry has listened to the news from the radio.

Al-Banna Welcomes Dialogue with Garang

JN2809110488 Khartoum SUNA in English 1036 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Khartoum, Sept 28 (SUNA)—Commenting on reports that the Sudanese People Liberation Movement SPLM of John Garang has accepted dialogue to solve the question of the south peacefully, deputy State Council, Idris al-Banna, said that the Sudanese Government welcomes dialogue to maintain peace in the country, calling on the SPLM to affirm its credibility with a serious dialogue.

Al-Banna said that we have to be careful in accepting such a call from the SPLM because we learned from experiences with the SPLM that it is not serious in accepting dialogue and the recent call for peace by Garang might just be a political maneuver to gain time he said.

In a statement to the newspaper of AL-KHARTOUM of today, Al-Banna affirmed that the Sudanese nation in the south and north will not bargain on their country's integrity.

On the other hand the secretary general of the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Al-Sharif Zayn al-'Abidin al-Hindi welcomed the announcement of the SPLM peacefully.

Al-Hindi, said that his party is always calling for settling the question of the south peacefully, indicating that the DUP and the SPLM met in Ethiopia recently in order to find a solution to the problem.

SPLA Ambushes Army Convoy; Over 400 Killed

EA2809171888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Torit—SPLA forces of Bright Star campaign yesterday Tuesday 27th September 1988, achieved a third major victory in Labalua village about five miles east of Torit town. An enemy reinforcement codenamed Ibn Walid that was sent to rescue Keyala has been wiped out.

A correspondent accompanying Bright Star forces says that the Bright Star campaign commander had earlier postponed the capture of Keyala for 7 days, tactically to force the enemy to send reinforcements, and, as expected from an enemy that has no correct military appreciation, the Ibn Walid convoy was sent under a Colonel 'Abd al-Munim.

When Keyala fell, the Ibn Walid convoy was stranded. They tried to return to Torit yesterday and fell into a deliberate SPLA ambush. The correspondent says that six vehicles the enemy troops were using were destroyed and the force dispersed. They are now being pursued. [passage omitted]

On 25th September 1988 Keyala fell and Ibn Walid became a reinforcement to nowhere. As expected, they started to withdraw back towards Torit and fell into a heavy deliberate ambush and the whole force was destroyed in about 6 minutes. Any survivors will have stories to tell.

The correspondent says that in the last 5 days alone, Bright Star forces have put out of action more than 700 enemy troops, with more than 400 killed, including about 250 killed in Keyala and about 150 from Ibn Walid. [passage omitted]

SPLA: Rebels Infiltrate Into 'Areas' of Juba

EA2809190888 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Juba—Infijar [explosion] forces under the overall command of commander Kuol Manyang Juk, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political-Military High Command, who occupied Jabal Lado, 25 km north of Juba airport, on 16th of this month, have infiltrated into several areas of Juba town. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani, Military Chief Review Situation

LD2809231188 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, discussed the security situation in the south and the progress of the operations in the region during his meeting at the Republican Palace this morning with General Fathi Ahmad 'Ali, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces.

Gen Fathi said that the rebel forces had begun intensifying their operations in the south in relation with the Gulf situation [as heard]. He also stressed the cohesion of our forces in confronting these operations.

The General Command of the People's Armed Forces has issued the following communique regarding the situation in eastern Equatoria:

The rebels recently received an unlimited support from many hostile quarters and this was clearly reflected by an increase in their activities early this month. As a result, they massed large numbers of troops equipped with enormous supplies of weapons with a view to taking over some isolated positions.

This activity was concentrated on eastern Equatoria and as a result the rebels massed large numbers of troops, estimated at 5000 rebels, around the town of Keyala, in eastern Equatoria, which they have been shelling since 17 September. Since then, one officer and three soldiers of our Armed Forces were martyred in addition to large numbers of civilians.

Our forces stood fast under an intense barrage of fire from the agents and they even inflicted on them human and material losses, with 221 killed and many others injured. Our forces also seized quantities of weapons and ammunition.

In the face of such a situation and due to the ever-increasing shelling of Keyala and the continuous backing the rebels were still receiving and due also to the heavy losses incurred by our forces and the civilians, the commander of the region decided to evacuate Keyala. Consequently the forces, which were accompanied by many civilians, moved to the town of Torit.

While confronting this base conspiracy in which regional and international quarters are involved, the Armed Forces reiterate their determination to oppose the rebellion and the rebels until the last drop of the blood of their men as a sacrifice for Sudan and the unity of its people. [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Reportage on Visit to Tunis by Libyan Officials

Prime Minister Discusses Talks

LD2609215788 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche conferred at the government palace at the Casbah this afternoon with Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi in the presence of State Interior Minister Habib Ammar.

Hedi Baccouche made a statement following the meeting to the Libyan press pointing out that Tunisian-Libyan relations have made—since 7 November and the warm and friendly contacts between the two leaders Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi—big steps toward solidarity and unity. He added that the Libyans visiting Tunisia and Tunisians visiting Libya feel, day by day, that Tunisia and Libya are one country.

The prime minister also said that the visit of Brothers 'Abd al-Salam Jallud and Al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi to Tunis is an opportunity to reaffirm the depth of unitary feelings of Tunisians and Libyans, whether in Libya or Tunisia. Hedi Baccouche pointed out that the leadership of the two countries—proceeding from these unitary feelings between two peoples, as well as their aspirations, history, and real problems—is determined to overcome all problems and advance with firm and studied steps toward solidarity and unity.

Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud stated to TAP that the historical change of 7 November ended an abnormal situation prevailing over Tunisian-Libyan relations. He added that the great development in bilateral relations is an embodiment of Tunisia's return to its roots as well as an embodiment of the 7 November philisophy. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud continued: We have not only been looking toward Tunisia from an emotional point of view.

There are also objective and historical reasons that compel us to go hand in hand with our brethern in Tunisia and give them absolute priority, because we are comrades in a historical march to restore glory to the Arab nation. Tunisia's guest expressed, on his and Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi's behalf, as well as on behalf of the Libyan delegation, his thanks to President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and to officials of the Tunisian Government and the Democratic Constitutional Rally for their good hopitality and warm welcome. He affirmed that the two countries proceed from solid ground, speak the same language, and analyze things in the same way.

JANA Cites Jallud Remarks

LD2709102088 Tripoli JANA in English 0830 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, Al-Fatih [September] 27, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A working session was held between Staff Major Jallud, Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi and Mr Hedi Baccouche, premier of sisterly Tunisia in al-Qasaba in the Tunisian capital Tunis. It was also attended by Mr Habib Ammar, minister of state in charge of the interior.

The two parts surveyed the dimensions of the ambitious unionist steps among the one Arab people in great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia. An emphasis was placed on the firm faith to proceed steadily to put into practice the aspirations of the one Arab people in both countries stemming from the unionist orientations of the leader of the revolution and President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali.

Commenting to the Tunisian radio and press following this working session, Staff Major Jallud says the situation existing prior to the 7th November was unnatural. We now go back to the (?natural) status... to the base. The massive promotion in the bilateral relations is a practical translation to the return of Tunisia to its roots. It is a translation of the foundation of the philosophy of the 7th November.

He adds that there are historical reasons and family ties and intermarriages among the one Arab people in both countries, so much so that they find themselves in a situation where they have to put forward an example of the unionist action.

He points out that the 7th November has given to geography its political dimension. We constitute one country. We find in both countries completed inter-related families.

He continues that the previous regime in Tunisia tried to bypass this fact, but because the change of the 7th November has stemmed from the depth of the people there being a genuine translation of the feelings of this people, this has been reflected in the political will. Unity is a political will and awareness of its being.

He goes on to say that all the questions and practical matters can be solved should a firm will and genuine resolve be available. Since there are available at present two leaderships deeply rooted in the people coming out of the people's reality in Libya and Tunisia. This has made the feelings and emotions translate the political will. The people's welcome accorded in great al-Jamahiriyah to President Ben Ali has expressed the brotherhood love and respect felt towards the Arab people in Tunisia and towards the historic change of 7th November. Staff Major adds that if we are from the people, we have to be deeply touched by the aspirations of the people. Since the unionist process has become in the forefront of the Arab conscience from the ocean to the Gulf, we now translate these fervent feelings and emotions into a

confident political will redeeming a new age, viz, the twenty-first century. The age of mass-production and mass- consumption, the hi-tech. The age of human, political, economic and military groupings.

He adds that we address ourselves to our brotherly Tunisians not from an emotional starting-point represented by inter-marriage brotherhood and inter-related family ties, but there are historical objective reasons which make us give absolute priority placing our hands with those of our brothers in Tunisia to be companions in one historical journey. As such, we will be redeeming to our nation its glory enabling it to take its road. Should we become unable to place it on the road, we can at least pave the way for the oncoming generations to proceed forward. This process is the conflict of generations.

He adds that as long as this nation abides by its values regarding integrity it will inevitably rise. Any nation losing the ingredients of its character, it will have no place in this. As we have logged behind the advanced world technically or economically, we, as long as we preserve our ingredients and traits and still possess the will of good, this, therefore, be the best sustenance and the greatest asset to discover ourselves and start moulding our life.

Meanwhile, Staff Major Jallud has expressed his happiness to be in his country—Tunisia saying that he and brotherly Major al-Humaydi have become confident of the unity of will. We are proceeding from a firm ground speaking one language, analysing in an identical way, using one vocabulary, this state of affairs did not exist in Tunisia prior to 7th. November, so much so that we have find that whenever we think to put forward an idea or a proposal, we, to our surprise, find that our brotherly Tunisian have thought in the same manner and have put forward the same proposal.

He stresses that we have now the same concern, aspirations and hopes. Tunisia is rife with its struggles and strugglers representing an epic on the Islamic and Arabic struggle. As such, Tunisia is retaking its role and status. We are badly in need of the Arab people in Tunisia for its struggles and intellectual radiation whether prior to Islam and during it. After being made absent for a long time, it is time to be present.

This is actual meaning of change. It is to make up for the process of being made absent that lasted more than 30 years. Such a change is not only in the interest of Tunisia, but in the interest of Arab Maghreb, Islam, Arab nation and the liberation of Palestine.

He points out that we, as strugglers and revolutionaries, don't look to any people as through its potentials for struggle, principles and values. They are the creative potentials with which all the historical movements started starting from revelations, apart from those groups which brought about a change. These groups did not possess any potentials other than the competent argument, the source and the proposal for change.

He stresses that Tunisia following the 7th. Nov. is qualified to present a proposal for change not only for Tunisia but to the Arab Maghreb and Arab nation.

In his comments, Staff Major Jallud has expressed his thanks and appreciation and that of Major al-Humaydi for the brotherly and warm welcome accorded to them by President Ben Ali, Messrs Baccouche and Habib Amar and all other brotherly members of the Destourian assembly.

Mr. Baccouche has stressed the depth of the unionist cohesion of destiny between the one Arab people in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia, apart from the resolve to proceed steadily to fulfill its aspirations represented by unity.

Commenting to JANA following the working session, he says that they have proceeded forward taking great steps in the direction of solidarity and unity started since 7th. November and following the brotherly and heartfelt contacts between brotherly Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafri and President Ben Ali.

Mr Baccouche has pointed out that the citizens of the one people in the two sisterly countries, since their moves across these countries, have come to feel that they are in one country.

He stressed that the visit paid by Staff Major Jallud and Major al-Humaydi is to emphasize the depth of the unionist feelings felt by the one Arab people in Great al-Jamahiriyah and Tunisia.

He says that stemming from these unionist feelings and taking account of the aspirations of the Arab people in both countries, the remains of the past and the objective difficulties, we are determined to surmount all the difficulties to proceed steadily and through study.

The world at large will witness that the Arab people in both countries are proceeding towards unity to become a model example for all the Arabs. With Allah's help, it will be a good initiative for the entire Arab nation.

Libyan Official Departs

LD2809165388 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Major Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi left Tunisia this morning. He was seen off by Habib 'Ammar, the minister of state in charge of the interior, 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Jamahiriyah's high commissioner in Tunis, and Muhammad Zway, the permanent delegate of the Jamahiriyah in Morocco. Habib 'Ammar had talks with Major Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi before his departure.

Jallud Assesses Talks

LD2809184388 Tripoli JANA in English 1751 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Tunis, September 28, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received in the capital Tunis this morning Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

After the meeting in a press statement, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud stressed upon the unity solidarity between the Great al-Fatih revolution and the 7th November to realise the ambitions of the one Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia and the rosy future for the march of progressing fraternal relations between both sisterly countries.

He said: "I was happy in my meeting with President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and I have found him as he always worries and reality. [as received]

"It was a brotherly meeting in which prevailed the spirit of amity and the relation of twining between the Great al-Fatih revolution and the 7th November change putting the one Arab people in both sisterly countries on the correct road to start the journey of final salvation".

He explained that the discussion during the meeting were deep and "their outcome was on the level of the ambitions of the Arab people in both countries and a good omen for a rosy future. They will be as the one people in both great Jamahiriyah and Tunisia want it".

He added: "I am pleased and in good hope for the march of progress of the fraternal relations. We talked in one language, analised in one analysis and we feel that we are the graduates of the nationalist movement and nationalist school, for we have graduated from amongst the people, the struggling masses and the simple people. We in Great Jamahiriyah and in Tunisia work towards becoming the guardians on our bond with the people, struggle with the masses in order to re-formulate their lives and build their future".

Staff Major Jallud explained that the difference is enormous, for the Tunisia of today differ from yesterday's Tunisia. Everyone knows the state Tunisia was in.

He said: "Tunisia, after the historic change, has returned to its skin after discovering itself, returned to its reality with its historic and cultural capabilities. The Arab people of Tunisia will be able to play a pioneering role, which what we felt [as received] from brothers President Ben Ali, Hedi Baccouche and all the officials".

Intra-Gulf

London Paper on Saudi Mediation Between Emirates

PM2609135388 London AL-SHARQ AL AWSAT in Arabic 22 Sep 88 pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "Positive Atmosphere in Gulf Paves Way for Resolving Problem of Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal"]

[Excerpts] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The two states of Qatar and Bahrain have taken a positive step toward resolving an outstanding problem concerning their dispute over the sovereignty of the two islands of Hawar and Fasht al-Dibal.

Saudi mediation has produced results, according to political observers and media circles in Gulf capitals. [passage omitted] In an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Shaykh Hamad [ibn 'Isa Al Khalifah], Bahraini heir apparent and commander in chief of Bahrain's defense force, expressed his country's optimism about and satisfaction with the brotherly cooperation and openness maintained at the highest level between Manama and Doha.

He emphasized that good intentions and positive initiatives among brothers close the door on tendentious quarters that fish in troubled waters and exploit clouded conditions in brotherly relations. He also emphasized that the new generations must shoulder their responsibility and correct any errors imposed on the situation by past history. Such corrections can only come through love and a sense of duty.

In his statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, the Bahraini heir apparent praised the Saudi Arabian Kingdom's great efforts and persistent mediation between Bahrain and Qatar to settle the situation between them through serious brotherly dialogue in order to serve the higher interests of the two parties and those of the region as a whole.

He said: We in Bahrain will never forget the major role played by Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd and his government in this regard. In fact, this is nothing unusual for the Kingdom, which has always tried to establish comprehensive Arab solidarity. We shall remain grateful to our brothers, who stood by our side in a situation that could have gone from bad to worse. At the forefront of these stands is the stand adopted by the Kingdom and the custodian of the two holy mosques. We in Bahrain have always informed the Saudi leadership, and still do, of any step we take in order to benefit from the wisdom of this leadership in handling various issues.

For his part, Bahraini Information Minister Tariq al-Mu'ayyad expressed in an exclusive statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT his optimism about reaching an imminent settlement to the outstanding problems between Bahrain and Qatar. He said: We are certain about the usefulness of this method of cooperation and openness. [pa ge omitted]

After following the new developments, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT can confirm that the details of the agreement between Bahrain and Qatar have not yet been crystallized fully. But it does see the visits exchanged between the two countries' heirs apparent as a positive step in a considerable qualitative objective, demonstrating that there are broad outlines for understanding and optimism at the leadership level in both capitals. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Amir Addresses UN General Assembly 28 Sep

LD2809183988 Kuwait KUNA in English 1703 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] United Nations, Sept 28 (KUNA)—His highness the amir of Kuwait, Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, hailed Wednesday the breakthrough achieved by the United States and Soviet Union to reduce tension in the world.

At the same time, however, the Kuwaiti head of state delivered a ringing indictment of the policies of the rich countries of the North in their dealings with the poor countries of the South.

Speaking as chairman of the fifth session of the 46-member Islamic Conference (OIC), the amir, in a historic address before the General Assembly, called for a meeting of creditor nations as part of a three-point plan of action to help the developing countries overcome their problems.

The meeting should examine the question of writing off interest on outstanding loans and forgive part of the principal to the poorest countries, the amir said. "Kuwait, for its part, as a creditor country, stands ready to attend such a parley and is willing to comply with whatever resolutions might be adopted in that respect," the amir said.

"In our view such an initiative offers a far better approach to address the matter in a more practical and effective fashion rather than leaving it to be resolved on the basis of the debtors' demand," he said. The amir also called on the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank, now holding their joint annual meeting in Berlin, to reconsider their stringent conditions affecting states seeking development aid from both institutions.

Finally, h.h. the amir urged the Northern countries to expand and regulate technical and scientific aid to the South.

The amir was the first speaker and only head of state to address the assembly Wednesday.

The problem of foreign debt and the (?mounting) debt servicing [word indistinct] the amir said, has become an impediment to and a severe restriction on development. It is also being used as a tool for pressure on the South in an attempt to secure it primary commodities at depressed prices while the North's manufactured goods and cereals are sold to the South countries at constantly rising prices, creating an ever widening gap between the two groups.

Furthermore, he charged, some industrial enterprises of certain North countries "maliciously utilised" certain areas in some poor countries as dumping grounds for nuclear and toxic wastes, sometimes with the knowledge of the governments concerned. "All this could be summed-up in a nutshell question, namely: Why is all this tremendous pressure put on the South and even sabotage actions are committed against it?" the amir asked. Is it not enough that nations of the South have to cope with natural disasters such as lengthy droughts, floods, locust and the outbreak of epidemics? "Our friends in the North have opted to aggravate our problems by creating further plagues that destroy our ecological system as well as our human resources thus undermining our ability to move ahead toward a better future."

Following his 32-pages long speech in Arabic, the amir went to the Indonesian lounge of the Assembly Hall where dignitaries from around the world were waiting in a long line to congratulate him.

Discussing regional political conflicts, the amir said with regard to Lebanon that country stands no chance of continuity without national unity and coexistence among all Lebanese factions.

"The future of Lebanon must be determined entirely by the Lebanese themselves: Occupation forces of the Israel polity must withdraw from Lebanese territory they occupy under the pretext of security that is invoked to justify an act of aggression and expansion," the amir said.

With regard to the Palestinian problem, the amir said all the Palestinian people is demanding is to have its independent state over its land, with its capital Jerusalem, under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, its sole legititate representative.

"Every person sitting in this hall has a homeland and a house to live in, carries a passport, and knows where to turn to safety at the end of our meetings here and looks forward to a happy family get-together at the end of the day," the amir told delegations from 158 countries, observers and spectators. The UN has 159 members, and South Africa has been expelled. "The Palestinian people demands nothing more than that which we all have," he said.

Commenting on the Iraq-Iran conflict, the amir said no matter how long hostilities last and with all the sacrifices made, "the belligerents eventually have no options but coexistence, and neighbourliness and cooperation in promoting life, while showing respect for national sovereignty and independence of every system, and the system of government it has chosen for itself."

The amir expressed appreciation for the European Community's attitude toward the Middle East problem, saying the Community's approach is based on conducting dialogue with all the peace-seeking parties.

Accordingly, he said, the socialist group within the community invited PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat to address the European Parliament earlier this month, and provided him a chance to meet and deliberate with senior community officials.

"It is our hope that similar fresh favourable wind will be blowing across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the new world which we hope ill be able to heed more attentively the just Palestinian voice and to demonstrate open-mindedness and tolerance in dialoguing with Palestinian intellectuals and legitimate representatives and to express in stronger terms its condemnation of the Israeli atrocities against the Palestinians," he said.

With regard to superpower relations, the amir hailed the agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States that lead to the reduction of nuclear arsenals and to the defusing of several complex international crises.

"From this rostrum I would like to commend and laud both the American and Soviet peoples for the breakthroughs achieved by both the United States President, Ronald Reagan, and the Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev," the amir said.

"Smaller nations view this rapprochement with a deep sense of optimism and now cherish a fresh hope that the current understanding would eventually have positive and not negative implications on the long-awaited just solutions of their problems in order to attain their legitimate rights," he said.

The amir also discussed the problem of terrorism and called on all nations "to work together and enforce proper and effective legislations against terrorism so that innocent human lives would not become a commodity subject to bargaining under threat, blackmail of [word indistinct] commercial transactions."

"We, in Kuwait, are in the forefront of the community of nations to condemn terrorism," the amir said. "We have suffered from this plague and managed to withstand its evils with the help of Allah, the almighty, and the solidarity of the Kuwait people. When a Kuwaiti civilian jetliner was hijacked last April, the international community rendered support to us, thus reinforcing our will and determination to weather that storm. We acknowledge that help with deep gratitude and appreciation," the amir said.

But he stressed that a clear line must be drawn between "oppressive terrorism pursued by individuals, groups and states, both in its explicit and covert forms, and the legitimate right to self and national defence as well as resistance of suppression and oppression as provided for in universal covenants and international law."

Describing the (?universal) declaration of human rights as a "remarkable achievement by the United Nations system, the amir said, however, that "too often the product is tarnished [words indistinct] of aggression. Therefore, the declaration of human rights must be scrupulously preserved and protected by both the double power of conscience and the force of law," the amir said.

Concluding [word indistinct] the amir paid tribute to the General Assembly and to the Security Council for all the resolutions and decisions adopted in order to reaffirm legitimate rights and to open up doors for reconciliation and peace.

"To you, Mr President (of the General Assembly, Dante Caputo of Argentina), and to the secretary-general (of the U.N., Javier Perez de Cuellar) and his staff we would like to express our thanks and appreciation for all the efforts you made and continue to make in the interest of peace and in seeking settlement of conflicts and disputes by means of wisdom and dialogue," the amir said.

AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM on Reagan's UN Speech

JN2809180288 Kuwait AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM in Arabic 27 Sep 88 pp 1, 21

[Editorial: "Reagan and the Middle East"]

[Text] In his farewell message, U.S. President Ronald Reagan has proposed the convening of an international conference to impose a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons and to stop the proliferation of missiles to avoid what he called the turning of areas like the Middle East into more devastating battlefields.

In his seventh and last message to the UN General Assembly, the U.S. President tried to warn that the Middle East could become a battlefield and arena for more brutal, devastating, and destructive confrontations.

The U.S. President's feeling and desire to become a champion of peace could have prompted him to launch this warning because he knows more information and secrets than others, particularly with regard to the Zionist entity's arms arsenal, of which the current U.S. Administration is the main supplier.

The most recent U.S. armament program given to Israel is the espionage satellite that Israel launched in cooperation with American experience, aid, and technology. It has become customary for American presidents to make farewell speeches on security and peace, but when in office, they heap weapons of death and destruction on Israel to keep its superiority in killing and torturing people.

Israel is the one that introduced chemical weapons to the Middle East. It is also the one that possessed nuclear weapons, concussion bombs, and all kinds of internationally-banned arms and ammunition. All these achievements would not have been possible had it not been for President Reagan's support for every work that serves Israel and gives it superiority and capability to expand at the expense of its Arab neighbors.

It is surprising that the American President launched his initiative for an international conference to impose a comprehensive ban on chemical weapons while he, the President, was not enthusiastic about holding an international peace conference on the Middle East. The chemical weapons are part of the Israeli peace formula. Therefore, it is illogical to hold an international conference that tackles a part at the expense of the whole.

The fears expressed by President Reagan on the outbreak of a war of missiles launched by a crazy person or of missiles fired by mistake are unjustified as long as there is still an American appetite for supplying Israel with such destructive and crazy missiles. Israeli madness cannot be stopped by statements or wishes.

There should be a parallel force to deter Israel and secure the requirements of security and peace. This is what the Arab countries are trying to do instead of the major countries, whose main concern is to achieve their interests and maintain Israel's superiority.

Oman

Iraq's Jasim Delivers Message, Departs

JN2609162788 Manama WAKH in English 1600 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Salalah, Oman, Sep 26 (WAKH)—Iraqi Minister of Culture and Information Latif Nusayyif Jasim left Salalah today following a two-day visit to Oman during which he conveyed a message to Sultan Qabus of Oman from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The Iraqi official said that the message dealt with the current peace negotiations between Iraq and Iran.

The Iraqi minister was bid farewell at the airport by Omani Information Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Muhammad al-Rawwas and the Iraqi charge d'affaires in Muscat.

Oil Minister Returns Home After UAE Visit

JN2609195088 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1740 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Muscat, 26 Sep (WAKH)—Omani Petroleum and Minerals Minister Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari returned to Muscat this evening from the UAE after a 1-day visit during which he delivered a message from His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

The Omani minister also held talks with Mani' ibn Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources in the UAE, on developments in the oil markets.

Visiting UAE Petroleum Minister Makes Statement

JN2809142288 Muscat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and natural resources of the fraternal UAE, arrived in Oman this morning on an official 2-day visit to the Sultanate.

In a statement on his arrival at Salalah civilian airport, Dr al-'Utaybah said that he carries a message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id from his brother His Excellency UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan. The message deals with the strong brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries. He added that he will hold talks with Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals, on bilateral cooperation in the petroleum field.

Answering a question on whether there is an intention to hold an emergency meeting of OPEC ministers since the prices committee failed to reach an agreement to enhance prices, he said: There is no intention to hold such a meeting, especially since the organization's periodic meeting will be held next November. He said he hopes the remaining period will be used to hold more contacts and consultations in order to assure the success of this meeting.

On the extent of coordination among non-OPEC producing countries and OPEC, he said: Such cooperation is necessary for swift resolutions to support the oil market and prevent prices from falling below their current level.

The UAE minister of petroleum and natural resources was received on his arrival by Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari, minister of petroleum and minerals.

Departs With Reply Message

JN2909095988 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Muscat, 29 Sep (WAKH)—Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, UAE petroleum and natural resources minister, left Muscat this morning following a visit to Oman. He conveyed a message from His Highness Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan Al Nuhayyan, UAE president, to His Majesty Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id of Oman.

In a predeparture statement, Dr al-'Utaybah said he carries a reply message from Sultan Qabus ibn Sa'id to the UAE president.

He added that the talks held with his Omani counterpart Sa'id ibn Ahmad al-Shanfari dealt with oil cooperation between Oman and the UAE, the latest developments in the oil market, and the preparations by OPEC member states to render successful the next OPEC conference to be held in November.

PDRY

Iraq's Ramadan Meets With Deputy Premier

JN2609144388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1245 GMT 26 Sep 88

[Text] Sanaa, 26 Sep (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met in his residence in Sanaa today with Salih Abu Bakr ibn Husaynun, PDRY deputy prime minister and energy minister.

Ramadan conveyed to Ibn Husaynun President Saddam Husayn's greetings to Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas. He stressed Iraq's desire to promote relations with the PDRY. During the meeting, they touched on the Iraqi-Iranian negotiations. Ramadan affirmed Iraq's determination to obtain its legitimate rights on land, at sea, and in the air.

The PDRY deputy prime minister reiterated his country's support for Iraq's stand to attain a lasting, comprehensive peace. He also renewed his country's interest in enhancing and expanding cooperation in all fields between Iraq and the PDRY.

They also discussed relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to promote them to bolster bilateral cooperation in various fields. Rashid Muhammad Thabit, PDRY minister of state for union affairs, attended the meeting. Taha Yasin Ramadan is currently visiting the YAR to participate in its national day celebrations.

Sudanese Delegation Arrives for Official Talks

EA2809105588 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Excerpt] His Excellency Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of the Democratic Republic of Sudan, arrived in Aden at noon today for a several-day visit to our country at the official invitation of our country's Supreme Peoples' Council Presidium and Council of Ministers. The great guest and his delegation were accorded a great official reception. [passage omitted]

In a statement to ANA on arrival, Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi said the purpose of the visit was to study together Arab and international issues of common interest in order to coordinate policies on crucial issues—particularly African ones.

Talks Focus on Ties, Unity

LD2809195788 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The first round of official talks between the delegations of Democratic Yemen and the fraternal Democratic Republic of Sudan opened this evening in an atmosphere pervaded by a spirit of fraternity, cooperation, and mutual understanding.

The Yemeni side was led by Brother Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, and the Sudanese side by Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister.

Opening the meeting, Brother Haydar abu Bakr al-'Attas welcomed the distinguished guest and his delegation, wishing them a pleasant stay in their second country among their people. He expressed confidence that the visit would succeed in deepening cooperation and understanding in the interests of the two fraternal peoples and the Arab nation. The meeting reflected the excellent relations between the two fraternal countries.

Brother al-'Attas said he was very pleased that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi had joined our Yemeni people in celebrating the 26th anniversary of the 26 September Revolution. He reviewed the efforts to unify the two parts of Yemen, the great positive achievements of the two political leaderships on 4 May, the development efforts of our country in all economic and social fields, and the successes achieved under YSP leadership.

Brother al-'Attas expressed the Yemeni people's sympathy for the Sudanese over the enormous suffering inflicted on them by floods this year. He expressed complete confidence in the ability of the noble Sudanese people to overcome such natural disasters and our country's full readiness to offer all possible assistance to rectify the damage. He also expressed our country's full solidarity with the democratic experiment in Sudan and the integrity of Sudanese territory.

Brother al-'Attas also touched on a number of pressing and important regional, Arab, and international issues. He stressed Democratic Yemen's readiness to discuss all topics in order to lay down strong foundations for developing relations between the two fraternal countries and appropriate modalities for cooperation and coordination.

Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed pleasure at being in Democratic Yemen and familiarizing himself with developments there. He said he was pleased with what had been achieved for the country so far. Al-Mahdi expressed Sudan's solidarity with the unification efforts between the two parts of the homeland which embody the aspirations of the Yemeni people.

He expressed pleasure at Democratic Yemen's stability and its success in overcoming the effects of the bloody January [1986] events. He also expressed gratitude for Democratic Yemen's sincere brotherly sentiments and for helping the Sudanese people repair the enormous damage caused by the disastrous floods.

On the current situation in Sudan, brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi referred to the Sudanese government's efforts to make the democratic experiments a success by involving different political forces in government. He referred to the national conference to discuss Sudan's major problems in order to create a popular force to work for the formulation and crystallization of the unity of the people and achieve development with its social objectives.

He also reviewed the Sudanese Government's efforts to assess the enormous damage caused by the rains and the program for the rehabilitation of the affected areas. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi expressed Sudan's views on Arab and international issues. The views of the two fraternal countries on areas of common interest concurred.

Brother Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas hosted a dinner in honor of Al-Mahdi and his delegation. It was attended by a number of members of the Political Bureau, the Central Committee, the Presidium, and by ministers.

United Arab Emirates

Heir Apparent Receives Iraqi Oil Minister

JN2709124088 Abu Dhabi Domestic Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid, heir apparent, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and chairman of the Higher Council for Petroleum, has reaffirmed the concern of the UAE—president, government, and people—to do all that can be done to boost peace efforts and render the Iraq-Iran negotiations successful. This came when his highness received Iraqi Oil Minister 'Isam 'Abd al-Rahim in his office in Al-Batin today.

His Highness Shaykh Khalifah ibn Zayid explained that the establishment of genuine and durable peace between the two Muslim neighbors will contribute to security, stability, and prosperitry for the peoples and countries of the region; remove most of the current negative circumstances affecting the oil world markets; maintain the Gulf region's humanitarian and oil role and supply the world with this strategic and important commodity.

The Iraqi minister acquainted his highness with the developments of the negotiations between Iraq and Iran. He explained Iraq's stand and determination to continue the peace march.

During the meeting, which was attended by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth, and Taha Rajab 'Uraym, Iraqi ambassador to the state, the two sides exchanged views on the spheres of cooperation and consultations.

They also discussed issues directly affecting the overall situation of the world oil market, especially regarding prices, production, and preparation for the OPEC ministers conference to be held in Vienna on 21 October.

The Iraqi oil minister arrived in the country on a visit to the UAE during a tour which will take him to a number of Arab Gulf countries. He was received at the airport by Dr Mani' Sa'id al-'Utaybah, minister of petroleum and mineral wealth, and Taha Rajab 'Uraym, the Iraqi ambassdor to the state.

Khayrallah Holds Baghdad News Conference 15 Sep
JN2209171088 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 18 Sep 88 pp 3, 10

["Text" of news conference by Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, in Baghdad on 15 September]

[Text] Culture and Information Minister: It delights and honors me to introduce my colleague and brother, the deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, after he has accomplished the most honorable duty of both the Arab nation and Iraq when he and his brothers in the Armed Forces succeeded in liberating our land from the criminal Khomeyniite aggression.

I introduced him to you 8 years ago when he victoriously repelled the Khomeyniite invasion of our territory on 4 September 1980. Today, 8 years later, we again introduce him when he is also victorious within the same national and pan-Arab concepts of victory that we understand in terms of our territorial sovereignty and independence and noninterference in our internal affairs.

Out of the desire of the world's journalists to visit Iraq, acquaint themselves with its military and political situation, and visit the northern region, we today host the brother deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister to thankfully answer your questions so that you can convey the answers to the world's viewers and listeners.

We thank Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister, for attending this large conference and hope that his answers will satisfactorically respond to your inquiries and to the questions of the world public at present on international policies and the military situation in Iraq.

To facilitate the administration of this conference, the questions you presented will be read along with the name of the questioner and the agency or television station to which he belongs. If any of you wants to ask more questions, the minister will be ready to answer. Thanks to the minister for attending this conference. Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and Defense Minister: Thanks to my brother and colleague, the information minister for his kind remarks. Welcome to the messengers of the press and news media in Baghdad, the city of peace and victory. I hope I will be able to fulfill your wishes by responding to your questions. I am ready to answer.

The Questions

The first topic is on chemical weapons and the United States:

Do you confirm or deny reports that a large quantity of poisonous gases is produced in Samarra'? (AFP)

A question from German television: The United States accused Iraq of using chemical weapons against Kurdish rebels in the northern regions. What is your comment?

A question from the Japanese TBS network: What is your reaction to the U.S. criticism of Iraq on chemical weapons?

A question from the British newspaper GUARDIAN: The United States accused Iraq of using chemical weapons, but Iraq is denying this. Will this lead to the severance of diplomatic relations between the two countries?

Questions from the Spanish press. The world news media has spoken much about Iraq's use of chemical weapons against Kurds. Is this true or not? Iraq has repeatedly denied using chemical weapons despite the flow of conflicting reports. Do you believe that it is an anti-Iraq campaign? If so, who is behind this campaign?

Did Iraq ever use chemical weapons before the cease-fire went into effect?

Question raised by the French newspaper LE FIGARO: How did Iraq acquire chemical weapons? Where did you obtain these weapons? Were these weapons purchased from abroad, or were they manufactured inside Iraq? Does the Iraqi Government intend to destroy the remaining stock of this gas?

A host of questions raised by THE WASHINGTON POST: What is the volume and type of chemical weapons used against the Kurdish rebels? What are the figures on the casualties caused by chemical weapons?

Will the journalists currently in Baghdad be allowed to visit the villages of Zakhu, Al-'Amadiyah, and the Rawanduz area, since a Kurdish rebel said in Europe that chemical weapons were used against the civilians there? Has Iraq protested against the allegations of U.S. intelligence that chemical weapons were used in some military operations against the Kurds, including civilians?

What is Your Excellency's response to the draft bill passed by the U.S. Senate? What will the extent of your response be if members of the U.S. House of Representatives approve the draft bill and if President Reagan approves the boycott?

A question raised by the FRG press: Did the Iraqi Army use gas to attack armed Kurdish rebels? If gas was not used, why do Kurds in Turkey say that they saw gas containers fall from Iraqi fighter planes?

A question raised by the FRG newspaper SUDDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG: How would you explain the alleged use of chemical weapons?

A question raised by the Spanish press and the Spanish international radio: How do you assess the economic measures imposed by the U.S. Senate? Is it possible that Iraq might sever its diplomatic ties with the United States? Will there be any other expected measures?

A question raised by Spanish Television: Do you feel you are being subjected to any type of pressure by the United States, particularly at present?

Questions raised by the Moroccan newspaper ANWAL: In light of the escalation of the U.S.-imperialist-Zionist political and economic aggression against Iraq, how do you envisage Iraq's response from the operative political perspective? How do you assess the Arab stand on the Zionist-imperialist campaign against Iraq? And in light of this assessment, do you see any possibility of raising the issue and discussing it at the Arab League?

A question raised by WAKH: Where are Iraqi-U.S. relations heading in view of the escalation of media campaigns between Iraq and the United States? Will Iraq demand a unified Arab stand if the U.S. Senate moves in the direction of adopting further confrontational measures?

If this escalation is maintained, will you tell us about some of the collective measures that will be taken to counter U.S. measures?

Deputy Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces and Defense Minister: Having been bombarded by this host of questions, I am astonished that you have not brought gas masks with you. If I were you, I would bring a gas mask with me, considering the picture that you are portraying.

Gentlemen, the situation looks frenzied in view of this unjustified campaign. I can answer you with yes or no. However, I believe that such an approach would not be convincing enough. I will do my best to give you my conception of the overall situation. From that you can draw your own conclusions.

On 17 April 1988, the Armed Forces set about recapturing the Iraqi territory that had been conquered by the Iranians since the war started 8 years ago. We retook Al-Faw peninsula, which the Iranians had sezied under circumstances known to us. The fighting to liberate Al-Faw took roughly 35 hours, beginning at 0630 on the morning of 17 April and ending at 1630 the following day.

Barely 25 days later, we turned to the other 16-18 square kilometers of Iranian-occupied land, where the Iranians had fought during what they called the year of decision. The Iraqi and Iranian Armies engaged in combat in a 5-square-kilometer area. The first Iranian attack began on Christmas Eve, 24 December 1986, and was smashed in 3 days.

The fighting resumed on the night of 8 January and continued through the new year, lasting without letup for 4 months. This piece of territory was retaken in no more than 8 hours, and Majnoun Island less than a month afterward. It took us 72 hours to collect spoils from the battlefield. It took us approximately 1 month to liberate Al-Zubaydat.

Iranian units were spread over an area roughly the size of Lebanon. The operation lasted barely 14 hours, during which the headquarters of two divisions and a corps were seized. We then moved to the fourth operation in the central sector on the Qasr-e Shirin axis in Kermanshah (Bakhtaran). After 24 hours, the operations were completed.

But given the sheer size of the area and the rough terrain, the units stayed behind for over 5 days to search the pockets and transfer the spoils from the battlefield. These units then moved back to the international border, having won more than 500 tanks and as many armored personnel carriers, over 400 field guns, over 6,000 miscellaneous vehicles, and huge quantities of light and medium weapons, plus 20,000 POW's.

The activities I have outlined were completed in no more than 3 months. I cannot say for sure whether following this stage the Iranian failure to engage in combat was on their own initiative or inspired by some quarter or other. Had they pursued hostilities, what was left of Iran's military machine would have been crushed. The Iranian enemy withdrew from Halabjah. Before that, regular Army units and elements of the Presidential Guard had been massed near Halabjah.

After making sure that all their military units stationed in the area had been evacuated, they made an annoncement to this effect. There are still a few resistance pockets of self-styled Kurdish revolutionaries in some parts of the north. More appropriately and logicially, we call them Kurdish agents.

We as a regime, are based on the revolution that took place in July 1968. The revolution had its causes and justifications. We had to face a heritage of accumulated problems on the domestic level. All these problems have become a thing of the past because of the relentless work over the past 20 years. Among the domestic issues was that of our Kurdish people in the northern area.

We issued the 11 March communique in the 1st third of the seventies. This communique clearly specified all the rights we believe must be given under an Iraqi umbrella to make it inexcusable for any mercenary to carry arms against the Iraqis, either Arabs and Kurds.

This agreement was concluded or signed with all Kurdish leaders, the most prominent one at the time being Mustafa Barzani. Jalal al-Talbani, who was mentioned in one of the questions and who now resides in Syria as I hear, was also among them. Two years later, Mustafa Barzani renounced the charter of the 11 March communique, which he had signed, and resorted to arms. The reason is that he did not believe in the Kurds' rights or the Kurdish issue. Rather, he was an outlaw. Since he was a young man, he was looking for someone to pay him and turned into what might be called a troublemaker.

He found that carrying arms and getting paid by parties interested in disturbing Iraq and turning him into a pressure card on the regime was very profitable for him, according to the simple equation of his personal calculations.

Barzani was defeated in 1975, and we won the Kurdish people over. Perhaps some gentlemen here have an idea of the number of those carrying arms in the northern area in comparison with that of our Kurdish people who enjoy rights that are denied their brothers in the area's states. We granted these rights from a conviction that is in line with our principles and the values we believe in. Had that not been the case, we would have renounced these rights with the fall of Barzani. These rights were given out of a conviction and faithfulness in the revolution's ethics and principles.

If Jalal Talabani or the Barzani sons rebel along with those who lead the rebellion for the reasons I explained, we will continue to adhere to these rights, because they make us win our people in the northern area. Stemming from this and as some questions suggested, the vice president, an RCC member, two ministers with portfolios, and three ministers of state, are Kurds.

There is an executive and legislative council for autonomy in Iraq's autonomous Kurdistan region. The governor there is Kurdish, and all the state cadres in the northern area are Kurds. Their schools highlight their heritage, affairs, and folklore. When you visit them, you will find them happy with all that has been achieved and with what the central government has given them. Regarding this case, there is a legitimate question. Jalal Talabani or the Barzani sons claim that the autonomy given to them is not as complete as they wish. They believe that their claim is truthful, or there is some truth in it.

Let us consider that what has been achieved in their area represents 85 or 90 percent of their demands. They have not attained 1 percent of what they were given in Iraq's Kurdistan in the neighboring states, which harbor many times as many Kurds as Iraq. If they are revolutionary Kurds as they call themselves—and we know that revolutionaries have values and principles—we ask them in the name of principles and values they believe in as men responsible before history, the international community, and the Kurdish community:

Is it fair for them to direct their rifles against the Iraqis, both Arabs and Kurds, although Iraq gave them rights out of conviction, while other parties still deny them any rights?

Gentlemen, you are elite intellectuals and media men who tour the world searching for facts and fair causes. There is opposition in every people, nation, and regime. There are progovernment parties as well as opposition parties. There are groups, gatherings, or other groupings that agree or disagree with the central course of the government. We see this in Britain, France, India, and all over the world. But when there is a danger, it is known that these groups put aside their differences and cohere to defend the homeland and independence. When the danger is removed, these groups return to the central government to say that we together defended the homeland's soil, and since the danger is removed, our stand is still the same. We still differ with you on the same issues.

Here, I turn to you the question addressed to me. You, the Iraqi and non-Iraqi, the French, the British, and the Americans: What will be your societies' judgment of what happened in our country? Jalal al-Talabani and Al-Barazani's sons stood with the Iranian enemy, who is at war with their country, guided the enemy and its units deep inside Iraq, sheltered the Iranians in their villages, gave the enemy food, provided it with information, and showed the enemy the Iraqi Army's supply lines and headquarters to strike them from the rear without shame or hesitation.

At the same time, Iraqi soldiers were fighting in Kurdistan defending Kurdish women. The mission of the Al-Talabani and Al-Barazani men was to kill our wounded in the ambulances. They claim that they are the protectors of Kurdistan and raise slogans, imagining that they will achieve their goals or find a justification for carrying arms.

When we establish a university in Al-Sulaymaniyah, they assassinate its professors; when we build a road and send equipment and engineers to build Kurdistan, they kidnap the engineers and set the engineering equipment on fire; when we supply them with electricity to transfer civilization to them, they kill the workers and blow up the power poles; and when we build a model plantation, they either steal the produce or burn it.

We told them, we are sending you what you ask for and you accuse the government of having no commitments toward Kurdistan. And when we send this to you, you behave in this way. What exactly do you want?

As an officer for 30 years, I have many close friends [from Kurdistan]. We believe that the northern area is a part of Iraq and part of its strategic depth. In light of these realities and facts, we deal with our Kurdish people in the northern area. If there are in Iraq 2 or 2 and ½ million Kurds, you will see them in your visit to the northern area. If the terrorist group in the northern

area—and without hesitation I call them the stray clique of agents because their mission is to receive [money] from foreigners to destroy their country—includes 5,000, 10,000, or 20,000, our share is 2 million minus 20,000. And we are proud of this.

Following the operations, which took place on the borders against the Iranian enemy, there remained a strip of land on the Turkish and Iranian borders between 10 and 20 km deep, but only 4 km deep in some parts. Part of the regular forces' units and around 200 Kurdish militia regiments began. [sentence as published] Those who fought them seriously were Kurds and partisans. If you wish, we can gather the commanders of these regiments and you can talk to them. Before the Army was preoccupied with its fighting against Iran, this force was responsible for preserving security and order in the northern region. They are on a narrow strip between the regular forces and the Turkish international border.

Through this strip, you can realize the size of the force of people carrying arms in that area. Naturally, you understand that when these units began to emerge, weapons began to fire. They live in these villages. Also old people, women, and children, who are not rebels, live in these villages together with those who bear arms in that area. They all dress in national costume, that is, there are no distinguished marks between those who bear arms and those who do not, except when one of them carries a weapon in his hands. When some of our Armed Forces units began their operations, many of those people moved to the Iranian or Turkish sides to flee death or from fear of the regular operations.

Operations began on the 27th of last month [August], and were concluded on the 4th of this month, or, to be precise, on the 5th of the current month. On the 6th of this month—1 day after the operations ended—the state declared a general amnesty. The reasons that pressed us to declare the general amnesty were that over four-fifths of the people who crossed the borders had nothing to do with the rebellion. They left the area because they feared being harmed by military operations. Briefly, this is what happened, because I do not want to go into detail.

Those who were paid went on to enjoy the dollars that they received for their treason and left the simple and misled group of our Kurdish people in the northen region to suffer. Therefore, from a humanitarian viewpoint, we owe it to our people to help them and make them return to the right course. We say: Let them cross the borders and they do not deserve citizenship, and stop at that.

But, I want to ask the U.S. senator who made this propaganda fuss, where did he obtain his information?

For the third time, the Turkish side has announced before the world that they have examined 7,000 injured people, and they say that these were typical injuries resulting from conventional warfare, such as injuries from grenade fragements. As of yesterday morning, over 20,000 healthy Kurdish citizens had returned to us. They are in the northern region, and you can see them there.

Before anything else, it is our legitimate right to wonder what right that senator has to feel more sympathy toward our Kurdish people than we do. I have a feeling—more like a conviction—that this U.S. senator cannot name two Kurdish cities in the autonomous region and that he does not even know how the Kurdish people live. Many of you know how American society is.

An American citizen knows practically nothing outside his field of specialization. He concerns himself more with his personal affairs and how best to make a living. Not that there is anything wrong with that. The last thing on the mind of an American is where this or that Kurd lives in such and such an area in the mountains. This is not due to ignorance as such. It is because the American citizen concentrates on things that have a bearing on his livelihood. You know as well as I do that, given the makeup of American society, a large percentage of those picked by a U.S. president for aides are technocrats. I believe this senator was dragged into this affair, given a piece of paper, and then asked to read it. It was a media bombshell.

I am certain that if your were to ask him five questions of this kind, he would be nonplussed. This is not the first time they have done it, though. When the war with Iran was still on, a U.S. State Department spokesman condemned the use of special hardware against Iran, which itself had not yet complained. We approached the U.S. State Department and told them that we had not heard the Iranians complain to any international forum about their being attacked with special hardware. How is it that you are doing it on behalf of the Iranians? We came to the conclusion that the matter was essentially a balancing act in the context of the approaching U.S. elections. It is not unlikely that the whole thing was Zionist inspired.

Samarra' is on the road to the northern region. The city and its environs is flat, open land where there has been a drug plant since 1964. You may visit the facility and ask any questions you like. The Arab League has made statements contradicting the American senator. The Iraqi leadership is not considering a severance of ties with the United States. But legitimate questions are being raised: Why did the American Senate not show comparable zeal when for a full year Iran refused to accept the UN resolution?

We have never held any American, French, or German hostages. We have never engaged in terror. We did not hold the American Embassy staff—men, women, and children—hostage. And all the time, the United States is claiming that it is combatting terrorism and classifying people according to where they stand on terrorism. Nonetheless, there you have the United States dealing

overtly and covertly with sponsors of terror in Tehran. The American antiterror zeal ought to have been directed at flouters of international law and conventions.

The Zionists must be behind this: We are certain that Velayati is prepared to put his signature to a blank document in Geneva, given the fate their Armed Forces have suffered over the past 3 months. After they had been dying for a cease-fire agreement, Velayati suddenly lays down conditions. The reason: The United States is worried over the likely developments on the West Bank and Israel's secure borders. Israel would have liked the question of its security settled with the end of the war.

It seems that things have not turned out to the satisfaction of world Zionism, so Iran was ordered to take a tough line at the negotiating table. The chemical weapons story and the hurly-burly stirred up by the media were not lost on us. The whole point of this effort is to put more pressure on Baghdad. The proposal to move the venue of the talks from Geneva to New York is part of this pressure.

There are many things in the world that the Senate should deal with before this minor issue. Technically, the operation was carried out in a 10-km border area. According to what we hear, the area affected by poisonous gases is not less than 50 km. Meanwhile, the area of operations in which the two parties were present in addition to the Turkish border strip is approximately 10 km.

In my answer to the other question, Jalal and his likes have become an international element, meeting with whoever pays more. There are the Kurdish people, whom you will see, and there stands Jalal alone. Our share is our people—the 2 million Kurds who live peacefully in their areas without Jalal. He may have 5 or 10. The people are our share and Jalal is the lot of the American senator. What do they want more than this? I believe I have covered most of the questions on this topic only.

Mr Deputy Commander in Chief, Your Excellency has answered the questions on Kurdish citizens. We have questions on the third topic—the negotiations and the Gulf war.

A question from the Moroccan paper ANWAL: Do you expect the imperialist Zionist campaign of distortion on the Iraqi victories to obstruct or even abort the ongoing UN-sponsored negotiations between Iraq and Iran in light of the American-Zionist pressure entailed in the campaign in the interests of Iran?

Another question from FRG television: The Geneva talks are now obstructed. What should be done to bypass this obstruction to achieve a final victory in the region?

A question from an Austrian paper: Will Iraq agree on applying the 1975 Algeria agreement between Iraq and Iran?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Defense Minister: At the beginning of my statement, I was able to answer your questions with a yes or no. It seems that the last part of my statement was not clear enough to answer your legitimate questions.

The depth of the area of operation does not exceed 10 km. Technically, it is impossible to use [gases] in a mountainous area in the way expressed by the American media. These gases are heavy and remain in the valleys and plains, which are also used by our forces to reach the headquarters of terrorism. Logically, we cannot contaminate an area that will lead us to the other side. This is the case even if we do not want to mention sympathy, the humanitarian issue, and other things.

The nature of the operation does not allow the use of such a thing. It is known that we were not fighting a regular army that adheres to its defensive positions and that has rear positions so that when we target an area we will have the planned results. They are scattered groups—10 persons in this village, 20 persons in another place, and 5 in another area.

In terms of the advantage of striking at a target, logic says that the target does not merit such punishment. As I have said, those who carried arms—and some of them are innocent—still exist. Those returning have reached more than 20,000. According to what I hear from you, the brother, son, or neigbor of any of them should have been the victim of such a thing. Tomorrow, you will be moving to these areas and to the people who left their homes. Please, ask them directly and take the answers from them. Act according to what you believe in.

I will answer your questions in the general review. I will not ignore any question. Please, allow me to move to the other topic, and then we will open the door for questions. I am ready.

On the negotiations with the Iranian side and the possibility of their failure, I would like to give you the full picture of how we view things and how the Iranian side views them. You can draw your own conclusions after hearing the two viewpoints. Iran has a coast line exceeding 1,200 km. It has more than four major ports.

The Iraqi area overlooking the Gulf from the Iranian border on the mouth of the Shatt al-'Arab in a horizontal line to the Kuwaiti border does not exceed a few kilometers. The southern area of Iran—the plain area between Shatt al-'Arab in the west and the Ahvaz region and Masjed-e Soleyman in the east, has been an Arab area throughout history. All international documents confirm this fact. The people in this area are still Arabs and from known origins.

The border between the Persian and Ottoman states was demarcated several times when the Ottomans ruled Iraq and the Persians ruled Iran. The Ottomans gave the Persians Arab land. That was when the Arabs were unable

to make decisions or be part of the decisionmaking. In the 1913 treaty, the border between Iraq and Iran was on land [east of] Shatt al-'Arab; Iran was given 7 km from the thalweg line in front of Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr]. The reason was that there was a railway in Al-Muhammarah that was used to transport supplies from the sea into Iran's mainland and the Soviet front. In the 1937 treaty, Iran was given another 7 km in front of Abadan south of Al-Muhammarah for the same reason.

When we assumed power in Iraq in July 1968, there were many accumulated problems in the country, including Barzani, Jalal Talabani, and the abnormal situation in the northern area. We had two options: either sacrifice the regime while the fighting continues in the northern area, or accept what the shah, who was influential and strong, wanted at that time.

Like other nations experiencing periods of strength and weakness, half of Shatt al-'Arab was taken from us. They [the Iranians] continued to push us from the east toward the west over the past 400 years, the latest time being from September 1980 to September [as published] 1988—barely 2 months ago.

We document the Iranian media and follow up everything said in Tehran calling the Algiers agreement the suspect agreement or the Saddam-shah agreement.

We have officially asked them, and said: If you do not want this treaty, then on our part, we will not adhere to it. Before this one, the 1937 treaty was unilateraly canceled by the shah in 1969. Now, how can we reach an understanding with the Iranian side and according to which treaty? The 1975 treaty fixed a territory for us, which was violated by the Iranians, and until the beginning of the war, this territory was in the Iranians' hands. They also took half of Shatt al-'Arab and did not return to Iraq anything that was agreed upon in 1975.

Iran is five times bigger than Iraq, so what do we have to give or contribute to Iran. I do not think that any of you has the right to donate his national soil, because this belongs to the people.

What the Iranians want now is a cease-fire and not a comprehensive peace agreement. You ask me why? Because Iran has all the advantages by having a 1,200-km coast. Its shipping faces no obstructions, all of its ports are functioning, and its oil is exported through them. On the other hand, Shatt al-'Arab—the only waterway between us and them, is at a standstill. We have two ports from which to export our oil in the Gulf, and these have been out of service since the start of the war.

The cease-fire will leave our troops ready on the borders. Three-fourths of this force is on alert due to the war. In peace time, they are supposed to return to their farms and factories and to a peaceful life, and then development, building of economy, and rebuilding the war's destruction can begin. The current state of affairs is to the benefit of Iran, not Iraq. We think that Iran, or those who give advice to Iran, want to keep things the way they are, and this we refuse to accept.

Gentlemen, you know that war with Iran lasted for 8 years. Negotiations with the Iranian side began on the 25th of last month. As of today, 15 September, they have been going on for 20 days. Until yesterday, only three meetings had been held. Hence, do you not think that 20 days—compared to 8 years—is a short period of time? It is too short for any miracles to occur. We still have plenty of patience. It is a conserved patience. If we feel the beginning of harm to our national interest, we will not show any flexibility. We do not want to appear before the international forum as intransigent people, who became troublemakers as a result of our victory. We want a true peace with Iran. We do not desire 1 inch of Iranian territory. Equally, we are not ready to abandon 1 inch of our national soil.

My assessment is that the Algiers agreement is now behind us. The reason is that the 1937 agreement was unilaterally abrogated by the shah. The Iranians rejected the Algiers agreement. This is documented by figures and evidence that came in Tehran statements. We are ready to present them to you as well as to the world. They ridiculed and belittled the 1975 agreement only 2 months ago. They are welcome to negotiate a new formula to establish a lasting peace to guarantee the two parties' rights to good neighborhood without interference in internal affairs. The peoples of the two countries are the ones who decide their future with their governments, if they are good or bad. And the people decide if the government should be changed.

Thank you, Mr Deputy Commander in Chief. There are many questions on the last topic; these can be summarized in two questions: The world wants to know Iraq's strength in light of the past war. Would Your Excellency give us an idea about President Saddam Husayn's view on the future of Iraq and its relations with the Arab regional countries and the West? The question is from THE WASHINGTON POST and the Voice of America.

The other question is the following: The Iraqi military and political victories on one hand and the popular Palestinian uprising in the occupied territory on the other, have constituted two prominent landmarks in Arab awakening and capability represented by Iraq's prominent position. How can this awakening be crystallized in creating a popular pan-Arab process to recognize Arab rights, confront imperialist hegemony, and defeat Zionist aggression? The question is from the Moroccan paper ANWAL.

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Defense Minister: We announced many times through the head of state and government officials that Iraq is an independent country and a member of the Nonaligend Movement. Our policy is to establish balanced relations with all international

parties so that our national and pan-Arab interests do not conflict with others' interests. Iraq, with its current strength or any additional strength, will remain among the peace-loving pioneers. We employ our strength according to the principles in which we believe and for which we struggled. Our relationship with the Arab countries is fraternal and cordial as expressed by the president in the national declaration on 8 February 1980—7 months before the war. The declaration contains many principles.

I can now recall the following: Abstention from the use of force between Arab countries and neighborly countries; a peaceful, cordial course is the key to resolving differences, problems, and conflicts of interests in the region; we support any Arab country in the face of any external aggression; we do not interfere in the internal affairs of sisterly or neighborly countries; and we believe in invigorating economic cooperaion, expanding political relations, and combining interests in the Arab area and the region in general. This is a firm and permanent course in which we believe.

Our commitments to the brothers are announced according to our principles. Iraq and the Arab nation are part of the international community, which they affect and which they are affected by when the Arab nation is encroached upon. The reasons are known in history. Israel is an alien body in the Arab fold. How and why did it happen? Much has been said, and the historical dimensions are known. We harbor no evil toward anyone. We are not against the Jews—our revealed doctrine opposes this trend. However, we certainly oppose the occupation of our territory by any foreigner and any party. The state is the same, my brother the questioner. The uprising and the victory in Iraq—its positive and negative elements—are for the nation.

Mr Deputy Commander in Chief, you have answered the points raised. Will you allow additional direct questions?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: I am ready to answer your questions, but to make things easier please let us begin from left to right.

Question: The Iranians were allied with Jalal and Barzani but fought Qasemlu, who is also Kurdish. Talabani and Barzani are Kurds and Qasemlu is also Kurdish. The Iranians were allied with the first two and fought with Qasemlu. There is a questioner who wants an explanation for that.

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: The matter does not need comment. They used the first two because they are Iraqi in order to exhaust Iraq and not out of love for the Kurds. They resisted the Iranian Kurd Qasemlu because he is inside Iran. They used the Kurdish card to exhaust and wear out the [Iraqi] authorities and not out of love for the Kurds. The Iranian Kurds support Jalal and Barzani's sons on the pretext that the Iraqi Government has wronged them. I have explained to you the Kurds' stand on the autonomy granted to them in 1974. My explanation is clear: As long as Kurds in Iraq cause trouble for Iraq, they use the Kurds.

However, when Qasemlu moves on an issue of the kind we mentioned, he is not allowed to do that. Qasemlu or Qasemlu's group faced Khomeyni and asked for achievements for the Kurds in Iran of the kind attained in Iraq. They asked for autonomy. Khomeyni pointed to the Koran beside him and said: That is autonomy. And he became silent. In short, that meant no autonomy for the Kurds in Iran. Brother listener, it is part of the game. Thank you.

Another question: The questioner wants a clear confirmation. Was poison gas used in the recent operation, and was it used after the cease-fire?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Defense Minister: I say frankly to our friends—we say all there is to say. To possess or not to possess poison gas is one thing, and to use it or not to use it is another. We may have a nuclear bomb. The world will not like it when we say we have a nuclear bomb. What I am saying to you is that we were not forced to use it [poison gas] in the recent operation in the northern region. As for possessing or not possessing it, that is another matter, and I hope you will excuse me from answering that, becau the war and its particular conditions still exist. That is as fair as I can be to you.

Question: There is general anxiety over the use of poison gas. Clarification is required. Can we say something about our current and future policy and our view on the use of poison gas?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: The brother questioner imagines we possess the technology for manufacturing such weapons. We are not the first to produce or possess banned weapons. I say to you personally and to the audience: You know well there are many states, among the big powers and lesser powers, that now have in their arsenal a big stockpile of weapons—nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons—and world public opinion does not know about them. As a general rule, brother questioner, we do not use such weapons for known reasons. We believe in such a policy.

However, I want to ask you: If that is the rule, then every rule has an exception. Why was the weapon manufactured in the first place, when world public opinion knows that the weapon is banned? Is it an intellectual craze? It was manufactured to be used if the circumstances that require its use exist. May I ask through you, brother questioner, why did the U.S. senator not ask his government: Why were nuclear bombs dropped on two innocent cities with their children, women, and elderly?

Before the U.S. senator denounces and creates against Iraq a media clamor without any evidence do you not agree with me that the United States was the first to use

gases on a very large scale in Vietnam? How can the U.S. senator justify this behavior, whose history is still recent? Why did the conscience of this U.S. senator not wake up, and why did this senator not ask the U.S. Congress: Why are these weapons used against defenseless people? I would not like to use the fact that the Americans employed this weapon in Vietnam as a pretext for me to use it in x places.

However, I would like to refer to the legitimate question you posed: If this weapon is not designed for use, why is it produced? So, there must be some logic in this regard. We entered a war with Iran in an official manner. In the 2d year of war, Israel struck at the Iraqi reactor. You know that we, along with other states, signed the agreement on banning nuclear arms and that our reactor is subject to periodic inspection just as any similar world installation.

We are holding an Iranian pilot with the rank of lieutenant colonel whose plane was downed. He was subjected to traditional interrogation just like other prisoners of war. It was revealed that he struck at the air base near the Jordanian border. The distance from the closest Iranian air base through the Iraqi-Turkish airspace and then across Syria to reach this target and return the plane along with its cargo is greater than the plane's capabilities. We asked how he managed to reach the target. He said: I had no problem reaching the target, but on the return trip I landed at the Syrian airport of Dayr al-Zawr. When the Syrian and Iraqi presidents met last year, this issue was raised among other things. The Syrian president admitted it.

Here, I would like to say that given that Israel has such a situation and that there are also Syria and Iran and inside Iraq there are Barzani and Talabani, will you throw flowers on someone who wants to kill you inside your own house? Dear interviewer, do you not believe that we are humanitarian enough to pardon them on the 2d day of fighting? Accordingly, I do not think we are extremists when we call them agents. Naturally, we do not encourage the use of agents; this is a firm policy. We do not encourage the use of local or foreign agents. In British history, you fought in more than one place. Do you think that if both Britain and the British people were threatened, Britain would not use nuclear arms? If so, why do you have a nuclear arsenal in your country? Why are you allied with more than one state?

However, alliance is a legitimate thing to defend both Europe and Britain. Does not the presence of atomic bombs in your country mean they will be used when needed? If you say no, then I will tell you to drop these bombs in the sea. Indeed, the possession of such weapons is some kind of a legitimate precaution for the sake of national defense. You now see how nuclear warheads are destroyed on television screens by the USSR and the United States because once reassurance, agreement, and international charters were reached, the reasons for posessing these weapons no longer exist. I believe that it is legitimate for any people to protect themselves with available means.

As for their use, this is left to circumstances. If the United Nations wants to come, we will welcome it at any time. However, if we interfere in any cause—let us take the Irish issue for example: The British press will reply to us by saying that this is part of the United Kingdom and that this constitutes interference in domestic affairs. Please, do not get angry as this is a logical argument. We support all that is logical. Therefore, if the United Nations wants to come, this does not conflict with the principle of sovereignty. So, we welcome it at any place and time.

Since the Kurds are Iraqis and the incident is a domestic incident, what does the United Nations have to do with it? For the sake of argument, I want to say that I want to dispose of part of my people in a specific manner for reasons I find justified. I do not mean here the use of gases but to move them from one place to another in the country. If gases are used against Iran or Iran uses them against me, and a complaint is lodged with an international party to come and investigate, then one must accept this.

Turkey was asked to verify whether gases were used. It replied by saying that the physicians it has are capable of carrying out analyses and diagnoses, that it is not a party to a cause that will make it adopt a biased stand, and that it does not see that there is any justification to dispatch a team to investigate.

It is inconceivable that a foreign party may be more concerned about my people than myself. Our Kurdish people are our people. We take care of them. You will see with your own eyes the economic state of affairs in the northern region. If you would like, you can visit the southern region and compare the state of affairs of the citizens in this region with the state of affairs of the citizens in the northern region. I will leave it up to you and your conscience to deduce results. I tell you this out of complete conviction and not for public consumption or media propaganda.

Question: Is not resettlement better than the extermination operations?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: In light of the war experience, the Iraqi command adopted a decision that the border strip is within red lines where no building or facility can be established, even if this belongs to the state itself. The only thing that can exploited in this area is what lies under the surface. There are oil resources near the borders which can add to my national revenues. The normal thing for me is to exploit these resources, but given the fact that this oil is located some 15 km from the border makes me ask the question: Should I exploit it or not? If the state of war is

an exception and peace is the rule, I should exploit it during peace and stop doing so during war. This is what took place in an oil area in the central sector that Iraq and Iran jointly exploit.

I would like to say to the person who asked this question that the question of resettlement applies to the Arabs and the Kurds alike. I would like to give you an example. The Abu al-Khasib city—a large city bordering Shatt al-'Arab—will be removed, and plans for the establishment of a new city which is also called Basra will be established far from the location where Basra now stands.

The same applies on the border strip as far as the point where the Iraqi, Turkish, and Syrian borders converge. Help me in your writing to explain to public opinion: When I move a village from location A where the minimum requirements for civilized life do not exist because of the circumstances I explained, to an alternative place where there is water, electricty, and the requirements for a decent living, please answer me: Is that annihalation? Annihalation is to kill people and demolish their homes.

You can go to the northern region and compare between the modern compounds that were hastily built in conditions of war and between the existing miserable villages. You can then decide if that is annihalation or revival and the restoration of a better life. You can then act according to your conviction. This applies to both Arabs and Kurds—not just to Kurds.

Question: If the U.S. decision should be implemented and the United States imposes a boycott, how will that affect Iraq's economic projects?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: Briefly, if they [economic relations with the United States] are not cut off, then their benefit is greater. However, if they are cut off, the effect on our economy is not significant. For several years now we have sought to build our economy with the war going on while taking the necessary precautions Certainly it will cause some harm, but it will not completely halt the march. The Americans know we do not live on U.S. aid. We are a resourceful country, and our economy is good. We would do better to rely on our capable Arab brothers than on the United States.

Question: In the present circumstances Iraq has called for Arab solidarity commensurate with the threats surrounding the region—foremost among which are the current attempts to water down the UN Security Council resolution and the uprising. Is Iraq satisfied with the Arab stands of solidarity and does it aspire to a better stand?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: There is the present reality and there is our aspiration. The existing reality notwithstanding, we aspire to what is better. The stand of some Arab states is not only satisfactory but a source of pride. The stand of some Arab states, such as Syria, is known. Some Arab states have resources, while the economic capability of other Arab states is not equal to the capability of the former states. There is an Arab consensus on the point on which we now agree and we are happy with that.

There have been Iranian statements on the possibility of a return to fighting. Do you believe the Geneva talks can collapse, particularly since there are repeated violations of the cease-fire? What is your comment?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: We have fought for 8 years—supposedly enough to remove whatever may be in the heart. With the cease-fire we hope, and we hope the Iranians feel the same, that there is a genuine desire for peace and for ending the fighting. We have fought for 8 years, and if we should fight for another 8 years, Iraq and Iran will remain neighbors. The sooner we achieve a comprehensive peace between us and Iran the better. As I have said, the normal situation is to have a state of secure peace in which we can devote our efforts to building and reconstruction. However, I do not believe the Iranian stand is one of intransigence as much as being a balance within Iran between the warmongerers and the advocates of peace.

I believe unjustified Iranian intransigence is for Iranian domestic consumption. On our side, we have one decision and one view. We announce what we believe. I believe return to fighting is not expected in the foreseeable future. However, at the same time, if the present state of deadlock continues, that may lead to a resumption of fighting. Of course we do not want a resumption of fighting.

Question: Does Iraq believe the war will end and Khomeyni will not attack again?

The Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense: More than being a person, Khomeyni is a phenomenon. In general we believe that the religous card whose principal front is Khomeyni and his followers—I believe that Khomeyni was charged with a mission, and I believe the religious card has exhausted its uses. You may ask me how. It has obstructed Iraq's 5-year development plan which was supposed to have been completed in 1990.

There is a very short time between now and 1990. They did not give us the opportunity to complete the first 5-year plan—the boom [infijariyah] plan. In our view, the intention was to halt Iraq's development in big strides. Jacques Chirac, who was then French prime minister, commented at the time: "If Iraq completes its three 5-year plans, it will leave the Third World."

Khomeyni and the war came and delayed us 10 years. They halted the second and third 5-year development plans, and Israel completed its part by striking at the Tammuz reactor in 1982 [as published].

Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information: At the end of this press conference I thank the minister of defense for his patience and his magnificently diplomatic, patient, and precise answers. He was patient in replying to all the questions that arose in your minds.

We hope to meet in the future at press conferences on peace and our new life when, God willing, peace is completely established. Thank you all.

Shamir 'Objects To Threats' Regarding Tabah

TA2809164488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he is all for keeping the peace, but he objects to threats. Mr Shamir made this remark in response to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry's announcement that Israel will be endangering the peace and the Camp David Accords by not respecting the arbitration decision on Tabah. The prime minister spoke to our correspondent Dan Eshel. He noted that Israel has kept all of its past promises.

Egyptian Consul: Arbitration Ruling 'Unequivocal'

TA2909074788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Interview with Ahmad al-Masiri, Egyptian consul in Elat, by Arye Salman; on 29 September—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Masiri] We have already been through the compromise stage, and now the Israeli side is talking about the need for concessions if Israel recognizes Egyptian sovereignty over the territory. Up until now they have rejected our position and said they were sure about the Israeli claim. Today, the arbitration ruling is unequivocal and in Egypt's favor. I do not see any reason for us to agree to a compromise or concessions.

[Salman] Does that mean Egypt will not agree to any joint ownership of the structures on the Tabah beach or allow Israelis free entry?

[Al-Masiri] Look, this will be our borderline, and it must be recognized as such and respected. You will need passports to cross this border, like any other border crossing.

[Salman] I would like to clarify something else: Each time an Israeli wishes to enter Tabah, will he need to present a visa, as is the case in the Sinai?

[Al-Masiri] I believe that will be the case. There is no longer any difference between Tabah and southern Sinai. Tabah is now part of southern Sinai, and all the arrangements effective for southern Sinai now also include the Tabah area. Anyone wanting to spend a week will receive authorization on the spot. Visits to Egypt are another matter.

[Salman] Sir, will Egypt agree to joint ownership of the holiday structures, enabling the Israelis to continue managing them under Egyptian ownership, or to some form of joint ownership that does not contravene Egyptian law?

[Al-Masiri] We are considering the matter, and I think it will all depend on negotiations.

[Salman] There are those in Israel who are saying that the structures in Tabah should not be transferred to Egypt. There are those who say they should be destroyed.

[Al-Masiri] I think this is unpleasant; we want to solve the problem in a civilized manner, and this could lead to us not being able to work together during this period. We want everything to go well and to advance the cause of peace together.

[Salman] What will you tell all those Israelis, especially in the Elat area, who say that if we are forced to give the hotel and the holiday sites to Egypt, we can expect serious and unfair competition in tourism in the Elat Gulf, which might lead to the collapse of Elat's economy?

[Al-Masiri] I believe competition is healthy and we should deal with things through competition, as is the case everywhere in the world.

[Salman] Sir, do you believe that solving this problem, which has cast a shadow over Israeli-Egyptian relations in recent years, could now contribute to improving the atmosphere in relations between the two countries and advance normalization of these relations?

[Al-Masiri] I certainly do. I believe that solving the Tabah problem in a civilized manner will spur the peace issue and contribute to peace.

Peres 'Ready' To Negotiate With Palestinians

TA2909060988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres said that Israel is ready to open negotiations with Jordan or with a Palestinian delegation, without prior conditions. At the same time, he said, the Palestinians should be authentic representatives of the Palestinian people who are for peace and not for violence. He was speaking at the General Assembly last night. Judy Lessing reports:

[Begin recording] [Lessing] Mr Peres said the vision of peace is within reach as long as all realize that decisive action is needed to change course and overcome belligerency.

[Peres] The Palestinians must recognize that it is possible to secure their legitimate rights, but not at the expense of Israel's security.

[Lessing] Israel has no desire to dominate or harm the Palestinians, Mr Peres said. It is prepared to negotiate with them fairly.

[Peres] We are ready to enter negotiations with Jordan and with authentic representatives of the Palestinian people who are men of peace and not men of violence, in order to solve our differences with Jordan and to resolve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. We are ready to negotiate with a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Yet, as peace is unlikely to be achieved in one leap, we are prepared to start negotiations without prior conditions with a Jordanian delegation or a Palestinian one.

[Lessing] Mr Peres said Israel seeks negotiations which have no threats or pressures, where both sides can put their expectations and demands on the table. The foreign minister said he expects to hear a clear committed voice for peace from the Arab world.

Mr Peres told the General Assembly he hopes the new Soviet policies will bring the world more plowshares and fewer swords. He hopes the changes in the Soviet Union will allow all Jews there to worship, speak Hebrew, teach their children about Judaism, and go home to Israel. [end recording]

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 29 September in a report by Walter Ruby on page 1 on Peres' address to the UN General Assembly adds that "Peres called on all the parties to negotiations to 'undertake a moratorium on all threats or acts of violence'" and "emphasized that the Palestinians must recognize 'changing realities' and cease calling for negotiations based on General Assembly Resolution 181 of 1947;" Peres "added, 'The turn to a so-called government-in-exile (represents) yet another escape into the realm of self-delusion. Any attempt to add or subtract from the only commonly accepted basis for negotiations is bound to destroy the existing framework without creating a new one'."]

Peres Interviewed on Elections, Peace Prospects

PM2909101688 Paris LIBERATION in French 26 Sep 88 pp 38-39

[Interview with Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Jose Garcon, Dominique Garraud, and Serge July in Paris—date not given]

[Text] LIBERATION: Did your talks with Francois Mitterrand and Roland Dumas dispel the anger which followed the latter's meeting with 'Arafat in Strasbourg?

Shim'on Peres: Roland Dumas told me about his meeting with 'Arafat. He told me that France's position is unchanged. He told me he had asked 'Arafat why he did not recognize Israel directly if he recognized it indirectly.

I explained to them that Israel is not the problem at present, the problem lies in the PLO itself. I do not think that the PLO can make a clear political choice. It is a very divided organiza'ion. 'Arafat says that he needs an Israeli De Gaulle. It is the Palestinians who need a Palestinian De Gaulle.

L.BERATION: Is the peace question having a decisive influence on the elections?

Shim'on Peres: Yes, and this is the first time that peace, the situation in the territories, and the security issue will influence an Israeli election campaign so much. According to the latest opinion polls, 70 percent of Israelis think that these are the three most important points. Peace will be the subject which will decide the elections.

LIBERATION: What is the reason for this development?

Shim'on Peres: It is the result of the uprising. It is also the end of a process. We have been in the territories for 20 years, and something must be done.... There is also the demographic problem, because many Israelis do not want to lose the Jewish majority. What does a Jewish state mean? It is a state in which Jews are in the majority.

The Labor Party thinks that Israel must make two clear choices: a demographic choice and a political choice. In other words, to maintain a Jewish majority in our country, we must abandon or sacrifice some of the territories which are under our control. Politically, Israel must take the initiative for peace. Unless it does so, many forces in the Arab world may take the initiative for war.

LIBERATION: Does the fact that peace is the central issue in the election campaign in Israel for the first time mean that you are out of line with Likud?

Shim'on Peres: When it came to making peace with Egypt, Israel was not divided along party lines. Many Likud deputies were opposed to the Camp David agreements, whereas the Labor Party was in favor of them.

Moreover, there is a difference between Sinai (which was to be handed back to Egypt—LIBERATION editor's note) and the West Bank: Sinai is a territory, whereas, for the Israeli right, the West Bank is an ideological question.

I do not think that this will be a problem for the Labor Party. We think that it is important to tell the truth. We are prepared to make a historic compromise, including territorial elements. We are prepared to give up the Gaza strip, and some parts of the West Bank in which there is a clear Arab majority.

LIBERATION: Are you afraid that the Palestinians might be tempted to opt for Likud, thinking that the right, which seems to be above suspicion on nationalism and security, is in a better position to make territorial concessions?

Shim'on Peres: Some Palestinians think that time is on their side. They do not think that there is any difference between Likud and the Labor Party. They think they should wait for 10 or 20 years, when they will have a majority in Israel. They also think that if Israel is governed by the right and pursues a hardline policy, it will lose its international support. That is a serious mistake.

LIBERATION: To try to contain the uprising, the Israelis are dismantling all the Palestinian structures in the occupied territories, whereas the Labor Party has always dreamed of finding an alternative in those territories to replace the PLO in any peace negotiations. Is that not inconsistent?

Shim'on Peres: We established an infrastructure one year ago to talk peace with the Jordanians. An agreement was drawn up—the London document—which gave us the opportunity to start serious negotiations with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. Unfortunately, our government was divided on that agreement.

Things deteriorated after King Husayn's recent decision to pull out of the territories. This affects the Palestinians, not the Israelis. The Jordanians think that the Palestinians will soon realize that, without cooperation with Jordan, there is no real possibility of starting talks with Israel.

LIBERATION: Do you think that Husayn has only pulled out of the West Bank temporarily or is it a strategic decision?

Shim'on Peres: There is now a tendency to make a strategy tactical. Husayn first reacted to the Algiers Arab summit at which criticism focused on him. He was also disappointed by the American attitude. He therefore told the Palestinians: "Take your chance." But he also told the PLO that, if he was prepared to disengage from the West Bank, it should disengage from Jordan. However, a large proportion of Jordanians are Palestinians, they have virtually the same land, the same language, and the same religion.... It is a rather artificial separation.

LIBERATION: Do you think that, despite the uprising, the Jordanian- Palestinian option is still not dead?

Shim'on Peres: Objectively, I regard it as the real solution. Husayn cannot escape from Jordan. Geographic factors leave no choice. It is with Jordan that we have the longest borders. With or without the Palestinians, Jordan and Israel must decide the nature of their future relations. We cannot constantly postpone this choice. That is why we must start negotiations with Jordan. But we must also start negotiations with the PLO. It is already clear that we have no choice. The PLO must make three important decisions: To secure the agreement of all sides for a geographic partition, in other words to establish a Palestinian nation on part of Israel's lands. Many Palestinians still reject this geographic partition.

It must also make a demographic split with the Palestinians in Jordan. Finally, it must stop terrorism and violence. Does 'Arafat really have control over the situation in the territories? It is one thing to be the symbolic enlightened leader, it is another to control them. We find the same splits in the territories as in the PLO. These divisions are probably even stronger in the territories because of the Muslim fundamentalists, who present a danger.

LIBERATION: 'Arafat says that he is in favor of a provisional government which would include not PLO leaders but prominent Palestinians from the territories. What do you think of that?

Shim'on Peres: It is impossible to achieve a solution without first negotiating. There are many questions: Will the state be demilitarized? What will its borders be? What will its relations with Israel be? You can only start with negotiations.

LIBERATION: In Strasbourg, 'Arafat reaffirmed that he was prepared to meet with any Israeli leader who would agree to meet with him, thus confirming the statements made by Bassam Abu Sharif, one of his close aides. This "step" produced no response in Israel.

Shim'on Peres: It is totally impossible for Israel to negotiate with an organization which indulges in terrorism. The choice is between terrorism or negotiations. You cannot have both. The second problem relates to the basis for the negotiations. 'Arafat is now saying that he accepts UN resolution 181 as the basis for negotiations (the 1947 resolution which made provisions for the partition of Palestine into two states, one Jewish and the other Arab—LIBERATION editor's note). He wants to step back 40 years. This cannot be taken seriously. You can make an omelette with eggs, but you cannot make eggs from an omelette.

There is no indication that 'Arafat can secure a majority in favor of the three conditions we are putting forward. The main problem is that the Palestinian camp has so far refused to make choices.

LIBERATION: Are you in favor of the joint initiative proposed by Mitterrand and Gorbachev relating to preparations for the international Middle East peace conference?

Shim'on Peres: It is fairly difficult for the Labor Party to accept an international conference, in view of the disagreements between those in favor of it and those who prefer direct negotiations. However, I support it because, without this conference, the Jordanians cannot agree to enter into negotiations. Moreover, the London agreement made provisions for direct negotiations in the framework of an international conference which would not have the power to impose solutions.

LIBERATION: What will be your first decision on peace if you are elected?

Shim'on Peres: The elections are a mandate to open negotiations. I would announce that I am prepared to negotiate with a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, or with the Jordanians alone, or with the Palestinians. The three possibilities exist. I am prepared to negotiate with the Palestinians.

LIBERATION: Which Palestinians?

Shim'on Peres: Those who abandon terrorism, accept resolutions 242 and 338, and recognize Israel. I will not investigate the background or past of the people with whom I have talks. My position is clear. If the Palestinians wish to replace the Jordanians, they must accept the conditions which the latter accept.

LIBERATION: Would you have discussions with the members of a future provisional Palestinian government which recognized Israel and abandoned terrorism?

Shim'on Peres: No. What would that government govern? What territory would it govern, and what borders would that territory have? This amounts to establishing the facts before negotiating. First, we must decide on the borders. There can be no question of Israel returning to the 1967 borders.

LIBERATION: Can you see a solution for Lebanon?

Shim'on Peres: Unfortunately, Lebanon is not a state. It is a tragedy. The civil war will continue. It is also a Syrian failure. There are Syrian soldiers in Lebanon but no Syrian political solution.

CSSR Minister Details Plans for Future Ties

TA2809103288 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 88 p 1

[Excerpts] United Nations—The Czech foreign minister told Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres yesterday that Czechoslovakia will soon send several foreign ministry officials to Israel to discuss consular matters.

Foreign Minister Bohuslav Chnoupek, said that Czechoslovakia plans to restore full diplomatic relations with Israel at the same pace as Hungary and Poland—and predicted that all three countries would recognize Israel next year.

The meeting between Peres and his Czech counterpart was the first official meeting between officials of the two countries since Czechoslovakia broke off relations with Israel in 1967. Chnoupek informed Peres that Czechoslovakia is setting up a firm called Contextrad that will represent her in trade relations with Israel.

Stating that Czechoslovakia wished to establish political as well as commercial, economic, cultural, and tourism relations with Israel, Chnoupek said Czechoslovakia was planning to hold a simulated international conference on the Middle East on December 6-8 of this year, and would like to invite non-official Israelis to participate, together with non-official representatives from the U.S., Britain, Egypt, and other Arab states. Chnoupek mentioned Abba Eban as someone Czechoslovakia would be interested in inviting. [passage omitted]

Chnoupek said that Czechoslovakia is anxious to increase tourism, and welcomed Israelis to visit the country, either individually or in groups.

Chnoupek said that Czechoslovakia would have moved faster in establishing ties with Israel were it not for the Palestinian uprising. He indicated that his country was still sensitive to negative Arab reaction to the reestablishment of relations. In response, Peres urged him to establish the relations in one fell swoop rather than gradually, so as to limit the difficulties with the Arabs.

Peres Discusses Expanding Ties With PRC, SFRY

TA2909105688 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Sep 88 p 12

[Report by Walter Ruby]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Foreign Minister Peres ran up against strong support for the PLO when he met with the foreign ministers of China and Yugoslavia late yesterday.

According to Israeli sources, Foreign Minister Qichen Qian of China told Peres that China would not upgrade its relationship with Israel unless there is progress toward a comprehensive Middle East peace settlement.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Budimir Loncar told Peres that while Yugoslavia wants to expand trade, tourism and cultural ties, it is not interested in upgrading its relations with Israel at the present time, given the unsettled Middle East situation, and given Yugoslavia's election earlier this month as president of the nonaligned movement. Loncar also called on Israel to come to terms with the Palestinian issue in all of its dimensions. [passage omitted]

Peres Meets Turkish, Hungarian Counterparts

TA2809191888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Report from New York by Jonathan Shachter]

[Excerpt] Foreign Minister Peres emerged just a few minutes ago from his meeting with Mesut Yilmaz, the foreign minister of Turkey. The two discussed bilateral relations, expressing general satisfaction at the progress made over the last few years. Foreign Minister Peres expressed concern over two topics: the first, the apparent exclusion of Israel from the proposed water pipeline running from Turkey to Saudi Arabia; and the second, Turkey's refusal to support Israel in the latest credential

challenge at the United Nations. The Turkish official promised to look into both problems, calling it a definite possibility that Israel will be included in the pipeline project.

Peres' talks with the Hungarian foreign minister, Peter Varkonyi, centered mostly on American-Israeli investment in Hungary. But Varkonyi also told Peres he was very happy to hear the results of his meeting yesterday with the Czech foreign minister, saying it had not been easy to single-handedly change the attitudes of Eastern bloc countries toward Israel, and Varkonyi is now glad to have the help of the Czechs in this regard. [passage omitted]

Peres Confers With Ethiopian Counterpart

TA2809212288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres conferred with his Ethiopian counterpart in New York this evening. Our correspondent Shim'on Schiffer reports that the parties agreed not to withhold reports on that meeting. Ethiopia does not maintain diplomatic relations with Israel.

This evening, strolling down the UN building's corridors, Minister Peres ran across his Jordanian counterpart. The two exchanged pleasantries and proceeded on their way.

Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze departed from New York this evening, having been recalled to Moscow urgently. The Soviets are now suggesting that Mr Peres instead confer with Shevardnadze's deputy, who is also in New York.

Parties Register for 12th Knesset Elections

TA2809143488 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Sep 88 p 1

[Report by Robert Rosenberg]

[Text] Splits in the religious-political camps characterized the final list of 28 political parties that registered with the Knesset Elections Committee by last night's midnight deadline. Requests were submitted for disqualification of four parties.

Eight religious parties—including splinters from Agudat Yisra'el, SHAS [Torah Observing Sepharadim], and the National Religious Party—are in the campaign.

Kakh, Moledet, the Progressive List for Peace [PLP], and Agudat Yisra'el have been named in appeals to the Elections Committee for disqualification. The Reform Movement is seeking Agudat Yisra'el's removal, while Labour, the Likud, Tehiya, and the Civil Rights Movement are demanding that KAKH, Moledet, and the PLP be disqualified.

In 1984 there were also 28 parties in the campaign.

The following is the list of parties:

1. Tzomet—Refa'el Eytan;
2. Moledet—Rehav'am Ze'evi;
3. Silent Force—Hako'akh Hashaqet;
4. MAPAM;
5. Pensioners;
6. HADASH [Democratic Front for Peace and Equality];
7. Ma'as—Ra'anan Na'im;
8. Ahdut—Victor Tayar;
9. Politeness Party (Derekh Eretz)
10. Labour Alignment;
11. Centre-Shinuy;
12. Qeshet—Refa'el Suissa
13. Kakh;
14. SHAS;
15. The Homeland Party—Bentzi Qoren;
16. MEMAD;
17. National Religious Party;
18. Progressive List for Peace;
19. Tarshish—Moshe Du'ek;
20. Likud;
21. Democratic Arab Party—Darawshah;
22. Civil Rights Movement;
23. The United Yemenites;
24. Tehiya;
25. La'or—Ya'aqov Hasday;
26. United Torah Jewry (Agudat Yisra'el plus Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el);
27. The Haredi Union—The Torah Flag (The Agudah splinter)—Rabbi Avraham Ravitz;
28. Yakhad—The Tribes of Israel (SHAS splinter headed by Shim'on Ben-Shlomo).

Hebron Closed To Block Kakh Convention

TA2809124188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The IDF has declared the town of Hebron and the vicinity of the Makhpelah Cave a closed military zone due to the Kakh convention that had been scheduled to open in Hebron at noon. Our correspondent Avraham Ben-Melekh reports that roadblocks have been erected at the outskirts of Hebron and near the Makhpelah Cave, and Kakh members are not allowed to enter the area.

Artillery Corps Acquires New Radar Systems

TA2809142488 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Sep 88 p 2

[Report by military correspondent Dan Sagir]

[Excerpt] The IDF's Artillery Corps has recently acquired two new highly sophisticated radar systems. One is designed for the range-adjustment of artillery fire, while the other is an artillery acquisition radar. This was reported yesterday by Chief Artillery Officer Brigadier General Shmu'el Reshef who introduced the systems to military correspondents.

Brig Gen Reshef described the new radar systems as representing a "step up" in terms of the means available to the Artillery Corps.

The first system, EL/M-2310 is made by ELTA [electronic industrial plant, a subsidiary of Israel Aircraft Industries]. Its developer yesterday termed it "an electronic observation officer." It is a long range, mobile unit for range adjustment. With its assistance, all cannons in use by the IDF today could be ranged with great precision to a distance of up to dozens of kilometers without having the target in the line of sight. The system can be used during daytime or at night, and in all weather conditions. Its use has largely improved the precision of IDF artillery fire resulting in a savings of a large number of shells. [passage omitted]

Reportage on Debate Over Plastic Bullet Use

Rabin Remarks Clarified

TA2809170188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 28 Sep

[Text] The Defense Ministry spokesman has clarified remarks made by Minister Rabin, published both yesterday and today. Rabin said that the IDF is using plastic bullets in order to increase the number of injuries without inflicting lethal wounds.

The Defense Ministry spokesman noted that firing plastic bullets is permissible for soldiers who have undergone special training for that purpose. This prerogative is used only at clearly-defined safe ranges.

Doctors Claim Bullets Lethal

TA2809201988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] UN personnel and physicians working in Gaza hospitals maintain that since the IDF first introduced plastic bullets, eight local residents have been killed and many others wounded by them. The doctor in charge of emergency in Al-Ahali Hospital, Dr Wahadi, pointed out that the plastic bullets are fatal if they hit vital organs. He claimed that the plastic bullets penetrate the body just as easily as metal cartridges, and that nearly all the persons hit by them required surgery.

Israeli military sources explained today that the plastic bullets may be used only by trained officers. They are instructed to shoot only from a distance of 70 meters or more.

Shomron: 'Minor Wounds' Caused

TA2909061888 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The chief of staff says plastic bullets enable the dispersal of violent demonstrations while causing only relatively minor wounds. In a conversation with our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe, Lieutenant General Dan Shomron stressed that because of the use of these bullets, it is only under very rare circumstances that demonstrators are killed.

He also said that Syria remains an extremist country which continues to prepare for war, but he believes that war is not inevitable because there is a wide gap between Syria's procurement program and a decision to actually go to war.

Shomron Says Deportations to Continue

JN2909073888 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1543 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Recorded interview with Lieutenant General Dan Shomron, IDF chief of staff, by correspondent Rosette Hakim at the "studios of the Arabic service of the Voice of Israel"; Shomron's remarks in Hebrew fade into Arabic translation by Hakim]

[Text] [Hakim] The IDF is making all preparations and constantly devoting all its resources to confront the break out of a war against us, especially by Syria. This is asserted today by Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron. Lt Gen Shomron adds that preparations for any emergency were not affected by incidents in the territories. Only a small part of the IDF is devoted to restoring things to normal in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

He said that it should always be remembered that the IDF was also performing the tasks of maintaining law and order before the latest incidents. On the indignation of the territories' inhabitants over the use of plastic or rubber bullets to disperse violators of law and order, the chief of staff said:

[Shomron] The main task of the IDF is to maintain order and security and prevent the eruption of violent demonstrations. As long as violence continues, the number of casualties will increase. It is known that the IDF is not the party that creates violence by its will. Those who do not want to be harmed, have the road open for them—namely, refrain from violence.

[Hakim] On whether the IDF will proceed with the policy of deportation and collective punishment if needed, Lt Gen Shomron said:

[Shomron] Deportation is an effective and difficult method that we use selectively. We will continue to use it against those who violate security or practice violence, especially those who throw incendiary bottles and expose the lives of others to danger. They are liable for deportation or having their houses demolished.

[Hakim] The chief of staff explained that the IDF activity in the territories is not normal, but stems from the requirements of the situation. On whether there is

danger after the end of the Iraq-Iran war, Lt Gen Shomron said:

[Shomron] Yes, there is some danger. The IDF is today making necessary preparations to face this possibility and even worse possibilities.

[Hakim] Finally, we asked Lt Gen Shomron about the situation in Lebanon in general and in southern Lebanon in particular. He said:

[Shomron] At this stage, Lebanon is not a state. It consists of divided parts with each part having its military force. What is certain, however, is that the inhabitants of southern Lebanon realize that their interest lies in living peacefully and securing their daily work. They, therefore, reject the entrance of sabotage elements such as Palestinian saboteures and Hizballah elements to their residential areas.

Youth Gets 2-Year Sentence for Road Obstruction

TA2809133488 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The Haifa District Court today handed down a 1-year prison term to a 16-year-old youth from the village of Jisr al-Zarqa. He was given an additional 1-year suspended sentence. The youth was convicted of placing a large rock on the Tel Aviv-Haifa highway in an attempt to harm human life.

Nabulus Woman Sentenced for Assassination Attempt

TA2809171588 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The Nabulus military court handed down a 5-year prison term on a local townswoman who was found guilty of attempting to assassinate a border policeman approximately 4 months ago. The woman tried to stab the policeman who was on guard duty in front of the Military Government building in town. She managed to injure his arm, but he overcame her.

More on Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

4 Reportedly Shot at Funeral

TA2909124788 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Report from Gaza by David Regev]

[Text] Thousands of Gaza Strip inhabitants this morning accompanied former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa's funeral procession. The mass procession started at Al-Shawwa's home in the exclusive Rimal neighborhood, where he was eulogized by relatives and Palestinian personalities from the West Bank. Diplomats from Spain, France, and Australia were also present.

At 1000 the funeral procession left the Al-Shawwa home for the Al-'Umari Mosque on Gaza's main street. Everything proceeded normally up to that point, but disturbances broke out near the mosque when many youngsters hurled stones and raised PLO flags. IDF forces tried to prevent a confrontation with the funeral procession, but at a certain stage plastic bullets were fired at the rioters who attacked the police station near the cemetery.

Arab sources said four local inhabitants were shot and wounded. Throughout the funeral procession helicopters hovered above, and a curfew was imposed on roads and neighborhoods adjacent to the procession's route.

IDF Radio: 1 Injured

TA2909143588 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Former Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa's funeral was held at about noon today. Several hundred youths staged a violent riot. [Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT reports that the disturbance occurred at Al-Shaja'iyah]. They joined the pallbearers, and traveled to the grave site while constantly hurling rocks at the security forces and journalists. The Army refrained from reacting because it had undertaken to guarantee that the funeral would pass uneventfully. No force was used apart from some shots fired into the air, and the firing of some plastic bullets.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1400 GMT adds that "only after some of the soldiers were hurt did the IDF use tear gas to disperse the youths."]

A single rioter [as heard] was injured by these shots.

The journalists were under a barrage of stones throughout the funeral procession. They found themselves trapped on the rooftops near the cemetery.

2 Wounded in Nabulus Incidents

TA2809132188 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] An object thrown into an Israeli bus in Nabulus injured a female passenger. She was taken for medical treatment. The IDF has closed down the area and started conducting searches.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that stone-throwing incidents took place in Nabulus and other places in Judaea and Samaria. A youth was wounded in the Nabulus casbah by IDF gunfire.

Stone-throwing incidents were reported to have occurred in Gaza as well.

Rocks Thrown in Jerusalem

TA2809201388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] A Border Police patrol encountered a hail of rocks a short while ago in the Abu Tor neighborhood of Jerusalem. Our correspondent Yosi Qoren reports that the patrolmen illuminated the area with flares, and fired tear gas canisters at the assailants.

'Serious Riots' in Jerusalem

TA2809210888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Serious riots occurred this evening in Jabal al-Mukabar in East Jerusalem when dozens of youths congregated on the hilltops and began attacking police and Border Police personnel with rocks. The police were forced to illuminate the area with flares, and bring in additional forces. So far there have been no reports of casualties in those riots. [passage omitted]

'At Least' 10 Wounded in W. Bank

TA2909105888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 29 Sep 88 pp 1, 12

[Report by Wolf Blitzer, David Horowitz, Joel Greenberg, and agencies]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] In incidents yesterday in the West Bank, at least ten Palestinians and an elderly Israeli woman were wounded.

The woman, 73-year-old Shoshana Greydi of Rehovot, was hit in the head by an object thrown at a bus convoy of Likud supporters that passed through Nabulus.

Sources in Tulkarm said clashes erupted when troops arrived Tuesday night at six villages near the town to remove Palestinian flags and erase nationalist graffiti. A 12-year-old girl was shot and wounded in the leg at Qaffin and a 28-year-old villager had both legs broken by a beating, local sources said, adding that at Al-Za'tar, a 14-year-old boy and a 20-year-old man were wounded. Four Palestinians were reported wounded in clashes at Yattah.

Palestinian sources said that 70-year-old A'dal Ara'i was injured in Gaza and ITIM reported that a plastic bullet injured 20-year-old Yahya Jum'a Abu Bakr in Khan Yunus. ITIM also quoted a senior military source as saying three people may have been slightly injured by rubber bullets in Al-Shati'.

Casualty Toll Updated

TA2809141788 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 28 Sep 88 p 10

[Report by Orit Zrubavel]

[Text] On Sunday, 25 September, the 293d day of the intifada [uprising], the IDF spokesman reported a total of 207 Palestinian casualties in the occupied territories. This figure does not include people killed by settlers' fire or other causes.

According to HA'OLAM HAZE's count, the number of Palestinian dead up to Monday, 26 September, the 294th day of the intifada, is 291.

Palestinian sources, however, report 371 dead according to the following breakdown:

—244 killed by IDF and settlers' fire.

—32 dead from beatings and electrocution.

—63 dead from gas inhalation.

—32 dead from other causes.

AL-RA'Y Columnist on 'Arafat's 'Deception'

JN2709101088 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
27 Sep 88 pp 22, 20

["From the Present" column: "Did He Pass From Liberation to Deception?" by Ibrahim Abu Nab]

[Text] It was said that when the leaders of the Palestinian factions opposing Yasir 'Arafat's policy went to Moscow after leaving Beirut and began to tell the Soviet leaders about what they considered to be defects in 'Arafat and his policies, the Soviet leaders told them:

Kill him if you wish, but never tell the Palestinian masses what you are telling us about him. If you kill him you must erect a statue of him, as he must continue to be a source of inspiration and a symbol for the masses. They said it is not easy for the masses to create a leader, as it is not easy for them to topple and destroy him.

Perhaps this is how the Soviets deal with their leaders and how they dealt with Stalin, Khrushchev, Brezhnev, and others. The ordinary Soviet citizen became aware that his leader was an executioner or was corrupt only a long time after his death.

Doubtless, this citizen must have stood in a long line before the body of his leader shedding tears, believing that no leader will come after him to fill his place or carry his title.

However, this method of delayed knowledge is now the stumbling block before the path of democratic reform announced by Gorbachev under perestroika—reformulating the society on new bases. It was announced recently—we read yesterday—that Gorbachev's reform program is being attacked by the right and the left and that both wings claim that perestroika is a fabricated policy that will achieve nothing.

This is not surprising because a society does not turn overnight from worshipping idols to loving freedom and woshipping truth and because democracy cannot be achieved through dictatorial means. Likewise, a society cannot be reformulated by an individual using the same ideology as his predecessors to tame the society and teach it acceptance.

Perhaps the Soviet leaders and the leaders of the leftist Palestinian factions reached, according to Soviet style, a mummification formula for the Palestinian leader in which he appears like Solomon, may the peace of God be upon him, who appeared to be alive even after his death.

Then, when we decreed Solomon's death, nothing showed them his death except a little worm of the earth, which kept slowly gnawing away at his staff. [Koranic verses]

Leaning dead against his stick, Solomon was thought to be alive. Human beings and jinnis knew of his death only after his stick—gnawed away by the "worm of the earth"—broke.

Some interpreters say that Solomon's stick was a symbol of his authority and that the "worm of the earth" was a symbol of his son who loved the earth and its joys, so he gnawed away his father's authority.

It seems that those who exposed the truth about 'Arafat to the people are now the worms—of which there are many around him. Therefore, the stick on which he leans broke in Strasbourg, where he publicly recognized Resolution No 242 and, in a roundabout way, recognized Israel—as French Foreign Minister Dumas put it—without getting, in return, any concession for the Palestinian people from Israeli or U.S. leaders.

A friend who came from Britain recently told me about the Strasbourg farce as he saw it on BBC television. The announcer said that he asked 'Arafat whether he recognized Resolution No 242. 'Arafat answered that he did.

(Bassam Abu Sharif said that the European parliament is witness to that!) The announcer then asked 'Arafat: You have recognized Israel then? 'Arafat said: Never, I did not. The announcer then said: But recognizing Resolution No 242 also means recognizing Israel. 'Arafat insisted on his opinion.

The British announcer told viewers: 'Arafat told us after recording the interview that he recognized Israel, however he did not want to say this openly to the public.

This also reminds us of what French Foreign Minister Dumas has said about his agreement with 'Arafat to announce the PLO's recognition of Israel on behalf of 'Arafat on the condition that 'Arafat will not deny this. So far, 'Arafat has not denied what Dumas had stated.

Some have asked me: Sir, is this the suitable time to publicly criticize 'Arafat? Others said: No one disputes the fact that 'Arafat has committed many mistakes and deviations but does this criticism serve the Palestinian people's interests or those of their enemies? Do you not see how hostile the Israelis are toward 'Arafat because he is the symbol which rallies the Palestinian people?

The truth is that I cannot find a better time than now to criticize 'Arafat and his policies which have brought the PLO, after 20 years of his fickle leadership, to this humiliating position of recognizing Israel, a position which is both a tragedy and a comedy. When will we criticize this stand if we do not do so now before the convocation of the PNC session which will be asked to sanction this stand?

Should we deal with the Palestinian cause as historians do with all issues: Judge matters following the passage of time rather than tackling the present with all the facts and information available?

It is not the first time that I have criticized 'Arafat. I have been criticizing him, his concepts, and his suspect practices from the very first moment of my acquaintance with him over 20 years ago. I did not do so from the premise of personal hatred but because of our disagreement on how to approach the Palestinian cause.

I know that 'Arafat tackles the cause in a superficial manner that is unprecedented in any other cause. In my opinion and that of many other Palestinians, the man seems to do exactly what the enemies of the cause want. He has forgotten or completely ignored Jerusalem in this criticial stage of his wholesale concessions.

He has amassed huge funds at the expense of the cause and this has become the talk of magazines such as PLAYBOY and WALL STREET JOURNAL. These funds are in his own name, thus making him indispensable to the Palestinian institutions and factions who need him to pay allocations to their members, and to Palestinian widows and orphans. As a result of the funds he possesses, 'Arafat has succeeded in making many people sense that their fate is linked to his fate.

Therefore, they try to find excuses for his actions and to justify his steps while being well aware that these actions are not sound. He has also turned the PLO away from its objective of liberation to that of deception and justification. He is on the verge of committing the mortal sin of voiding the PLO through the government-in-exile or the provisional government abroad which will adopt new principles that will replace the PLO's principles and charter. The command of the uprising realizes this very well and is warning against it. It is also calling on the PNC to become aware of this.

The time is propitious to criticize 'Arafat to reaffirm two facts. The first is that our religion bans us from worshipping anyone but God. The second fact is that the revolutionary experience the Palestinian people are presenting to the world at large is that of the uprising where the leadership is in the hands of the masses and not in the hands of one leader.

The PNC must carry out its duty to regulate Palestinian funds and their judicious use so that they may not become the dominant factor—as is the case with the Jewish people.

TIMES Criticizes Rabin's 'Intellectual Stupor'

JN2909062588 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29-30 Sep 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Rabin's New Role"]

[Text] Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has stated clearly that Israeli soldiers are deliberately shooting and wounding more Palestinians in order to crush the ten-month-old uprising in the West Bank and Gaza. He told a news conference earlier this week that the Palestinians would eventually learn that they would pay a heavy price in casualties if the uprising continued.

Whatever his merits as a soldier or politician, Mr. Rabin is obviously not a very good historian, or user of mirrors. For he only has to look into the mirror of his own people's history to recognise that what he says is clearly against the lessons of both human nature and political history.

Violence perpetrated against a distinct group of people—whether Palestinians in the 1980s or Jews in the 1930s—does not result in the acquiescence of the target population. Rather, it prods the victims to struggle harder for a new political order which can assure them their individual and national rights.

We can understand why Mr. Rabin would seem to forget the lessons of history, for he is now in the role of the oppressor, rather than the oppressed. It is a new role for him, which he fulfills with a peculiar combination of militaristic zeal and intellectual stupour.

He should look back to the treatment of Jews in medieval or 19th Century Europe, when the Jewish reaction to overt discrimination and physical threats was to heighten the sense of Jewish identity, and finally to prod the emergence of the movement of modern political Zionism. The result was the state of Israel.

And now that his state of Israel is the one doing the beating and the oppressing, why should the Palestinians react any differently to the way the Jews did many years ago? The shootings will only intensify the drive for a Palestinian state and international support for such a goal.

Mr. Rabin may choose to ignore this fact. But one day he will have to face its consequences, as he should recognise from the history of his own people.

'Prime Minister' 'Awn Issues Order of Day

NC2809134488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Order of the day issued by "Prime Minister" and Army Commander General Michel 'Awn on 28 September—announcer-read]

[Text] O military men: The turn taken by events in the past few weeks, both positive and negative ones, have not surprised us. We have always known that there is no savior or salvation for the homeland and the people and no haven for the independent national will that is free from all internal, regional, and international pressures outside the Army. No party is kinder to the people than its Army.

We have repeatedly warned of the imminent dangers and the fateful deadlines facing the homeland. We have repeatedly called for the need to rally the ranks and bring about conciliation to confront these dangers and deadlines. We have called on more than one occasion for the need to achieve legitimate security through the just and wise fist of security, because it alone can provide security for all.

While it is regrettable and very costly that our people in the capital and in all Lebanese areas have paid too much of their security, blood, and money as the price for the illegal security experiments, the only remaining truth, namely you, continued shining over everyone when they reached the dead end.

Thus, your command has been entrusted with piloting the ship amid the raging tempest. We have been entrusted with guiding it from the triangle of vacuum, collapse, and rupture to the shores of safety, steadfastness, and unity.

O military men, can any one of you imagine what would have befallen your homeland and your people had you not responded to my appeal to you to remain as the homeland's last resort to which the homeland could turn in its darkest hours?

Have I not repeatedly told you that your role is coming, that the solution will start with and by you, that the homeland's tribulation will end, and that any formula in which you are not the basis will fail and collapse?

You have stood fast, you have borne the wars of doubt, starvation, and intimidation because you believed in your role, were loyal to your oath, and trusted your command. You have been waiting for the hour when you will hear the appeal and respond to the slogan of honor, sacrifice, and loyalty.

Today the Lebanese ship is in your hands. We must save it and guide it to safety, security, dignity, and freedom. Hence you are in greater need today of further cohesiveness, steadfastness, and the will to succeed and salvage than ever before.

The task is hard but every difficul[illegible] be surmounted and every riddle resolved if you h[illegible]ne conscious will to remove the nightmare from your people and the danger from your homeland. Our life in the military has never been easy.

Indeed it perhaps draws its strength from the difficulties, dangers, and sacrifices that it encounters. We have remained steadfast with the help of this faith, using it as a shield, and have prepared ourselves for our indispensable role.

O military men, in the past 4 years I have repeatedly called on you to remain steadfast in your positions, no matter how cruel and overpowering the circumstances that surround and pressure you. Today, with complete knowledge of and deep feeling for what you suffer, feel, and bear I can only remind you of every word I spoke to you and every promise I made to you and to myself.

Perhaps you realize, with your characteristically serene perception, that no one but you will risk burning his hands to extinguish the homeland's fire and to rescue Lebanon from the perils of fragmentation, partition, occupation, and [Palestinian] settlement.

Hold steadfast in your barracks, areas, and communities and do not allow yourselves to adapt to the prevailing factionalism in your society. On the contrary, confront this factionalism with rational national awareness and stamp on it with your virtuous unionist character. Do not let its distorted image disfigure you.

O military men, we are men of our word, unshakable disciples of honor, sacrifice, and loyalty, and advocates of unity of land, people, and institutions.

The homeland is yours, the people are your flesh and blood, and liberation and sovereignty are your inevitable destiny. Long live the Army, long live Lebanon.

Front Declares Support for 'Awn Government

NC2809165988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The Lebanese Front has declared its support for the legitimate government headed by General Michel 'Awn, stressing that this government has ensured that the state's institutions will continue to function and has prevented the creation of a vacuum that could have put the homeland's fate in jeopardy.

The Lebanese Front expressed support for the government so that it can carry out its fundamental tasks in these difficult circumstances.

The Lebanese Front reaffirmed the need to hold free presidential elections. It also reaffirmed that the Lebanese alone have the right to elect a president who will work to safeguard the homeland's freedom, sovereignty, and dignity.

Klibi Messages to Speaker, Spiritual Leaders

NC2809172488 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi has declared that he will place himself at the disposal of Lebanon in order to contribute to any action which might preserve its unity.

In a message he sent to Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni, Klibi expressed his firm conviction that Lebanon's unity and sovereignty are an absolute priority. He expressed his hope that the Lebanese and Arabs will unite their efforts to safeguard this unity.

Klibi emphasized that the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies must shoulder its responsibility and elect a president for the republic who will be able to save the country from the dangers of anarchy and partition.

The Arab League secretary general stressed that he will spare no efforts to convince world public opinion that Lebanon's unity and the fraternal coexistence of all its citizens, without any ideological or sectarian discrimination, are the only means to guarantee the safety of this country and safeguard security and peace in the Middle East.

Klibi has also addressed messages to Patriarch Sfayr, Shaykh Abu Shaqra, Shaykh Shams al-Din, and Shaykh Khalid stressing that despite the danger of the current conflicts, partition remains the gravest, most cruel, and bitter danger.

Kan'an Motorcade Escapes Car Bomb in Khaldah

NC2809161488 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1605 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] According to reports received a short while ago, a car bomb exploded near the Khaldah crossroads [south of Beirut] at 1645 today.

The explosion occurred as the motorcade of Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon, was passing in the area. The same reports indicate that there are 15 casualties.

5 Syrians Reportedly Killed

NC2809192688 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Five people were killed and 19 wounded when a booby-trapped car exploded at a Syrian checkpoint at the Khaldah crossroads at 1815 today.

Our correspondent has reported that five Syrian elements are among those who were killed or wounded. Meanwhile, AFP has quoted eyewitnesses as saying that three Syrian troops were killed.

AFP on Car Bomb

NC2809192788 Paris AFP in English 1914 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 28 (AFP)—Four people were killed and 18 wounded, including several Syrian soldiers, in a car-bomb blast south of the Lebanese capital Wednesday, security sources said.

The attack occurred during the evening rush-hour in the Khaldah district, at a crossroads controlled by the Syrian Army. The intersection, 16 kilometres (10 miles) south of Beirut, is on a road linking Syrian-controlled West Beirut to southern Lebanon.

Syrian troops fired in the air and blocked the road to traffic for almost an hour as the casualties were being evacuated by ambulance.

The blast was the first major attack since parliament failed to elect a new president last week because of disagreement between the anti-Syrian Christian camp and pro-Syrian Moslem groups. [passage omitted]

Group Claims Responsibility

NC2909102288 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1000 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] A group calling itself the Dawud Dawud and Mahmud Faqih Group has claimed responsibility for the car bomb explosion near a Syrian roadblock at the Khaldah crossroads yesterday.

The explo on killed five people and injured a number of others.

Group Claims 2 Rocket Attacks Against Syrians

NC2909065688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Beirut Martyrs Battalion has announced that at about 2145 yesterday it launched two rocket attacks against Syrian occupation forces in West Beirut.

A Beirut Martyrs Battalion spokesman said that the first attack was on a Syrian position near the airport traffic circle and the second was on a Syrian roadblock in the Bi'r al-'Abd area.

The spokesman added that a number of Syrian occupation soldiers were wounded in the attacks.

'Extreme' Palestinian-Amal Tension Near Sidon

NC2809171088 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Amal gunmen kidnapped two Palestinians in the Al-Hisbah al-Jadidah area near Sayniq Bridge this afternoon.

The Palestinians retaliated by setting up a roadblock on the bridge, where they kidnapped a number of Amal sympathizers before taking them to the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp.

Palestinians and Amal members then exchanged gunfire in the area, which led to closure of the road for some time. Extreme tension still prevails in the area.

Gunmen Reinforce Positions

NC2909081188 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Reports from Sidon indicate that this city as well as the Palestinian camps at 'Ayn al-Hulwah and Al-Miyah wa Miyah are the scene of mounting tension.

The Palestinians are reinforcing their positions in the east, toward Maghdushah, and are bringing in more weapons. They have also strengthened their ramparts and bunkers along the Sayniq-Maghdushah road and at the Sayniq bridge, where driving has become hazardous.

For its part, the Amal Movement has renewed its warning to its fighters not to drive along the Sidon-Tyre road in either direction lest they should be kidnapped by Palestinians.

Some Amal members have reinforced their positions in the town of Al-Ghaziyah and in the vicinity of Ma'mal al-Safa, bringing in more vehicles, weapons, and guns.

Meanwhile, intensive patrols and mobile and fixed roadblocks, manned by gunmen supporting Mustafa Sa'd [secretary general of the Nasirite Popular Organization], have been seen in the city of Sidon and as far as the Al-Awwali area. They are seeking to maintain order and prevent gunmen from entering the city.

Israeli Planes Carry Out 'Mock Raids' Over Sidon

NC2809131988 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Israeli combat aircraft flew over Sidon, the nearby camps, and Iqlim al-Kharrub at 1530 today.

Earlier today, Israeli planes flew intensive flights over the South, carrying out mock raids over the area. The morning flights extended as far as the mountain area and Beirut.

Al-Huss Orders 'Complaints' Lodged Against Israel

NC2809134888 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] On the instructions of Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, the Political Affairs Department in the Foreign Ministry has sent a cable to Ambassador Rashid Fakhuri, Lebanon's permanent UN envoy, asking him to lodge two urgent complaints. The first is against the Israeli air raids yesterday and the second against the sentences imposed by Israeli authorities on Lebanese citizens.

Israeli Gunboat Searches 2 Merchant Ships

NC2809160588 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] An Israeli gunboat intercepted two merchant ships at 1500 today off the Al-Zahrani coast. It forced the vessels to sail out to sea and then searched them.

3 Students, Teacher Wounded by Sniper Fire

NC2909092988 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] This morning, sniper fire directed from the southern suburb at the Al-Antuni Institute in the B'abda area left three students slightly wounded. Institute teacher Nabil Shuwayri was also wounded. The Union of Dentistry Laboratories has denounced the incident, pointing out that the institute is not a military barracks or a training center.

'Problem' Between U.S. Official, REUTER Employee

NC2809170288 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] A problem arose between one of the U.S. ambassador's aides and REUTER photographer Jamal al-Sa'idi at the mufti's office this morning.

This prompted the photographers and journalists to boycott the ambassador's meeting with Mufti Khalid. This in turn led the officials at the mufti's office to intervene with the photographers.

The ambassador's aide later apologized to REUTER for his conduct.

Ministry Urges Discussion of Israeli Satellite

JN2909110888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Damascus—Syria has called for an urgent meeting to discuss the harm and danger of the satellite launched by Israel. The Ministry of Communications sent messages to the secretary general of the Arab Telecommunications Union and the director general of the Arab Space Communications Organisation.

The ministry explained that the satellite will be used for aggressive and espionage purposes and will harm Arab communications. The launching is in violation of international norms, which require the prior consent of the International Space Communications Organization, the ministry said.

The Syrian memorandum called on the Arab countries to face these dangers and to move in the international arena to explain Israel's aggressive aims.

Al-Shar' Meets French, Other Counterparts at UN

JN2809185088 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1815 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] New York—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in New York today with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. Dya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister, attended. The conversation dealt with the situation in the Lebanese arena and with French-Syrian relations.

Al-Shar' also met with Finnish Foreign Minister Kalevi Sorsa. During the meeting, they discussed Syrian-Finnish relations and issues of mutual concern.

The foreign minister also met with PDRY Foreign Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali. The conversation revolved around developments in the region.

Al-Shar' met with Takakazu Kuriyama, deputy Japanese foreign minister. They discussed Japanese-Syrian relations.

Press Supports 'Endeavors for Unity' in Lebanon

JN2909075288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 29 Sep 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "The Crime of Partition and the Required Reply", the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today that he who reviews Lebanon's history and establishment will find that the bases of Lebanon's existence are reconciliatory, national ones which take into account the interest of all the Lebanese—not only the interest of a small group. Those who are attempting to destroy these bases are also destroying Lebanon and undermining its existence.

AL-BA'TH adds: What has happened is very big and serious, yet there is still an opportunity and time to save Lebanon's unity. For this reason, the Lebanese national forces and the unionist personalities who care for holding national meetings are struggling with all ways and means.

As for Syria, the developments which have taken place cannot change our stand toward the fraternal country's crisis. This pan-Arab, principled stand was declared by leader Al-Asad more than once. He said Syria stands alongside the Lebanese brothers in their endeavors for the unity of Lebanon's land and people. Syria also supports these brothers in their efforts to achieve national accord. Moreover, Syria is always ready to extend assistance to all Lebanese brothers in order to save their homeland.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: Just as Damascus' doors have been open to all those who work for Lebanon's unity, they will continue to be open to the Lebanese nationalists and to all those who endeavor for Lebanon's salvation and for ending its abnormal, bitter situation. As usual, Syria will continue to support Lebanon's unity and oppose partition. It will continue to support unionists and oppose partitionists.

Moreover, Syria will support nationalists and oppose the non-nationalists who began the crime of partition as well as the betrayal of the homeland and the destruction of the bases of Lebanon's existence. This crime will not pass without a comprehensive, decisive national reply and without a severe punishment.

In its editorial, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH also deals with developments in the Lebanese arena. It explains that the emergency national conference—to be held by the Lebanese national forces today—is of great importance due to the efforts to confront the partition conspiracy and end the dangers posed to Lebanon and to its unity and Arabism.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Syria, which stands alongside Lebanon and its people and which extends every possible assistance to realize unity among the Lebanese, reaffirms that it supports all the Lebanese who are faithful to Lebanon's unity and Arabism and who are eager to end the crisis, realize national accord, and put the national and pan-Arab interests of Lebanon and its people above anything else.

Syria will continue to play this role proceeding from the relations of common fraternity and fate until the Lebanese people realize their national goals and emerge from their crisis in good shape so they will play their natural, civilized role amid their Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Islamabad: 'More Than 20 Rockets' Fired at Kabul

BK2809153888 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have captured another center [word indistinct] in Paktia Province. They also blew up several ammunition dumps in a military base outside Jalalabad, killing and capturing several Kabul soldiers.

It is reported that the mujahidin made another rocket attack on Kabul today. The reports say more than 20 rockets were fired.

33 Killed, 127 Wounded

LD2809171788 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Excerpt] As a result of the firing of surface-to-surface missiles by warmongers and murderers, 33 of our compatriots were martyred and 127 wounded in the city of Kabul.

BAKHTAR reports that contrary to the claims of U.S. and Western media that the opposition only attacks military installations in Afghanistan, 25 terrorist missiles were fired by terrorist groups at residential areas of the city of Kabul yesterday and as a result 33 of our compatriots, including children, women, and elderly people, were martyred and 127 others were injured. A number of houses were destroyed.

The most serious incident took place in the most crowded part of the city, at Deh Afghanan bus stop, at 1630 while our compatriots were traveling to their homes.

As a result of a missile exploding, the dismembered bodies of 26 people were scattered along the main road and 112 others were injured.

Quoting security authorities, BAKHTAR reports that at 0710 yesterday and again between 1710 and 1825 surface-to-surface missiles were fired at residential areas of Kabul city.

One missile explosion caused the death of three children in Tapa-e Salam and injured three others. As a result of another missile hitting the house of Kamaluddin in Klolaposhta, three people were injured. [passage omitted]

Sharq Visits Missile Victims

LD2809224088 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The Afghan prime minister visited the (Jamhoriat) hospital today to see the injured victims of the missile attack on Kabul and wish them speedy recovery. He also prayed for peace to return to the Afghan people.

The Afghan prime minister added: I am sad that the blood of innocent human beings is being shed for satisfying inhuman objectives. We are ready, to put an end to the bloodshed of our compatriots and end these tragedies, to sit for talks anywhere, provided the others want these. We are ready to concede and accept sacrifice to whatever extent possible to eliminate this misfortune and realize national reconciliation.

Protest Note on Missile Attacks

LD2809180288 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] The liaison office of the Afghan Foreign Ministry with the UNGOMAP [UN Good Offices Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan] reported that the 87th note from the Republic of Afghanistan concerning Pakistan's blatant violations of the provisions of the Geneva accords was handed over to the UNGOMAP office in Kabul.

This note informs the UNGOMAP mission about the missiles extremists have launched in the residential areas of Kabul—carried out with the direct cooperation of Pakistan—which caused the martyrdom and injury of dozens of our innocent compatriots and also caused formidable material losses.

The note asks the mission to investigate the dispatch of lethal weapons from Pakistan to the territory of our country which cause the death of our innocent compatriots and to convey the result to Afghanistan and the UN secretary general's representative.

IRNA: Mujahidin Capture Asadabad Airport

LD2909072288 Tehran IRNA in English 0645 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] London, Sept. 28, IRNA—Afghan mujahidin have captured the airport and military installations guarding Asadabad, capital of Kunarha Province in eastern Afghanistan, according to mujahidin sources.

The airport was seized after a day-long battle during which at least 260 Afghan Government troops were killed, the mujahidin's AGENCE AFGHAN PRESS (AAP) reported. It did not say when the fighting took place.

Eight resistance fighters lost their lives and 34 others were wounded, the agency added. Large quantities of arms and ammunition stored at the airport dump were also captured by the resistance fighters.

Meanwhile the 7-party mujahidin alliance issued a stern warning against "nefarious" elements claiming to represent the mujahidin, refugees and the Afghan nation.

A communique issued by the alliance said these elements, who have recently made political moves in Geneva on behalf of the Afghans, "do not, in any way, represent the Islamic unity of Afghan mujahidin, or the majority view of our nation."

However all those Afghans living in exile who wish to help and contribute towards a political solution of the Afghanistan issue, may do so only after their views and plans are endorsed by the Islamic Alliance, it stressed.

"All endeavours which do not have the consent of (the alliance) would be strongly opposed by all mujahidin who have given untold sacrifices in the realization of the sacred goal of jihad of the people of Afghanistan."

AFP: Rebels Down Army Helicopter, Killing 30
BK2909145288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1438 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Islamabad, Sep 29 (AFP)—About 30 people were killed, including the provincial governor's wife and sons, when Muslim rebels shot down an Afghan Army transport helicopter in eastern Paktia Province, resistance sources said Thursday.

The helicopter was shot down last week near the provincial capital Gardeyz soon after it took off for Kabul carrying Army officers and some civilians, the sources said.

About 30 people died in the crash, including Afghan Army officers and the wife and two sons of Paktia's military governor, General Barak Zai.

The resistance sources said the wreckage fell in a rebel-controlled area.

Mr. Barak Zai's sister had written a letter to rebel commander Jan Mohammed asking him to return the three bodies, the sources said.

In her letter, which reached the guerrilla commander Tuesday, she had offered to exchange the bodies for mujahidin guerrillas in the Afghan Government's custody in Gardeyz, the sources said.

The rebels had not yet responded to the offer, they said.

Pakistan Charge Summoned on Violations 27, 28 Sep
LD2809211888 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned yesterday, 27 September, at 1500 to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following points were conveyed to him by the deputy of the first Political Directorate:

The relevant Afghanistan authorities have reported that a Pakistani Air Force helicopter entered Afghanistan from the direction of Gabra to carry out a specific task at 2150 on the evening of 19 September, landed for 6 minutes 1 and ½ kilometers inside Afghanistan, in the area of (Latokhar) in Marawora subdistrict and then flew back at 2157 to Pakistani territory.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers this Pakistani Air Force act to be a blatant violation of the Geneva accords and therefore protests to the Pakistani Government.

It must be added that Pakistan summoned Afghanistan's charge d'affaires and told him that four Afghan Air Force planes entered Pakistani territory in the Kharlatchai area of Kurrum on 26 September 1988 and caused loss of life and property by dropping bombs.

However, after a comprehensive investigation it became known that Afghan planes had not intruded into Pakistan's airspace and Pakistan's claim is nothing but slander.

While the Republic of Afghanistan endeavors to implement precisely the Geneva agreements and wants healthy and goodneighborly relations between the two countries, it also expects Pakistan to realize its responsibilities and demonstrate goodwill with respect to the goodwill of the Republic of Afghanistan and refrain from slanders and accusations which will have no result other than to cause more tension. In that case the responsibility for the grave consequences arising from this will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

Similarly Pakistan's charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned today, 28 September to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the following points were conveyed to him by the deputy of the first Political Directorate:

Afghanistan's security authorities have reported that on 27 September at 1638 in the afternoon two Pakistani jets entered 24 km into Afghanistan's airspace in the area of Kamadaka from the direction of the Solayman mountains and performed a 3-minute reconnaisance flight in the area of Kamadaka and Shalman in Ningrahar Province and then flew back to Pakistani territory.

The Republic of Afghanistan considers this intrusion by the Pakistani Air Force into Afghanistan's airspace to be a clear violation of the Geneva agreements and a violation of Afghanistan's airspace and thus strongly protests to the Pakistan Government.

While the Republic of Afghanistan considers itself duty-bound to observe the Geneva agreements and the provisions of all international laws it demands that the Pakistani authorities end to their violations of the Geneva agreements and it should not try to aggravate the situation by violating the agreements. Otherwise the responsibility for the grave consequences will rest with Pakistan.

Najibullah Addresses Jerga of Hazara People
LD2809222088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan took part in the jerga of Hazara, people from the 10 wards of Kabul city, held today in the Delkosha Palace of the Presidential Office.

At the begining of the session a few verses from the Holy Koran were recited and then Shaykh Muhammad Hasan Redwani, Wakil Muhammad Qasem, Brigadier General Khaliq Hosyn, Senator Gholam Hasan Oruzgani, and Haji Muhammad Jan Dehqan—the representative and elders of the Hazara inhabited regions of Kabul city—spoke on behalf of those attending the jerga.

In expressing support for the policy of national reconciliation, they promised the complete readiness of the Hazara inhabited regions of Kabul city to implement the policy of national reconciliation and to restore peace in Kabul city. They also raised their particular grievances.

They [the participants of the jerga] promised to cooperate fully with the government organs to strengthen Kabul city's security, consolidate the security belt, and foil opposition crimes.

In his talk Esteemed Najibullah then spoke about the advantages of the policy of national reconciliation and government peace-seeking measures to end the war and bloodshed. He also spoke about the criminal deeds by extremists and Pakistan's blatant infringement of the Geneva accords.

In his talk Esteemed Najibullah pointed out the role of unity and solidarity among various fraternal nationalities of Afghanistan for the realization of national reconciliation and the cessation of war and bloodshed and he regarded as a valuable and humane step the readiness of the Hazara inhabited regions of Kabul city to strengthen the security belt round Kabul city.

Esteemed Najibullah issued the necessary instructions to the relevant officials to solve the grievances and problems of the Hazara inhabited regions of Kabul city.

This jerga ended after offering prayer for the restoration of peace, the realization of the aspiration of the policy of national reconciliation, and the prosperity of the people of Afghanistan.

Cosmonauts Meet With Defense, Security Officials
LD2809121688 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0445 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Kabul, Sep. 27 BAKHTAR—The Afghan-Soviet cosmonauts and the guest delegation from the Soviet Union met here today with the personnel of the Air Force and Air Defence, Ministry of State Security and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Afghanistan.

A meeting was held in the headquarters of the Air Force and Air Defence in which Captain General 'Abdul Qader (AKA), commander of Air Force and Air Defence of the country appreciated the meritorious services of the Afghan-Soviet cosmonauts.

Later on Colonel 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand and Brigadier General Mohammad Dawran, the Afghan cosmonauts and the Soviet cosmonaut, Lyakhov, talked about the importance the Afghan-Soviet joint space flight in the national economy of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Then Muhammad Aslam Watangar, minister of communications awarded presents of the Air Force and Air Defence to the Afghan and Soviet cosmonauts and to the guest delegation and Lyakhov the whimpel of the cosmonautic [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto at 1530 GMT on 27 September renders this as "banner of cosmonautics"] under which the Afghan-Soviet cosmanauts signed was awarded to the commander of the Air Force and Air Defence of the country.

The cosmonauts visited various parts of the Air Defence University and museum of honours of that university.

The cosmonauts and the guest delegation visited the Ministry of State Security where they were welcomed by Lieutenant General Ghulam Faruq Ya'qubi, minister of state security.

The Afghan-Soviet cosmonauts and the guest delegation visited the room of honours of the personnel of the Ministry of State Security after participation at the gathering which was held in that ministry.

The cosmonauts and the guest delegation visited later on Museum of the Army of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Colonel 'Abdul Ahad Mohmand and Lyakhov opened room of the space flight in that museum.

The cosmonauts and the guest delegation went to the Ministry of Defence where they participated in a meeting held there.

Captain General Zabiullah Zi'armal, chairman of the political affairs of the Army and Lieutenant General Shahnawaz Tanay, minister of defence spoke on the socio-economic and political significance of the flight and considered the flight as another important step towards strengthening of friendship between the two countries.

India

Bangladesh President Arrives in New Delhi 29 Sep
BK2909065788 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Bangladesh president, General Ershad, arrived in New Delhi today for high-level talks on bilateral matters with the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi.

General Ershad is accompanied by his foreign minister, Mr Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, and Education Minister Mr Anisul Islam Mahmud.

He was received at the airport by the human resource development minister, Mr Shiv Shanker. The Bangladesh high commissioner in Delhi, Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury, was also present at the airport.

4 Farmers, 1 'Terrorist' Killed in Punjab

BK2909065188 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] In Punjab, five persons were killed in two separate incidents last night.

Terrorists shot dead four farmers and injured seriously another two in village (Punniyaya) near Tarn Taran in Amritsar District.

According to an official spokesman, some terrorists armed with Chinese assault rifles intruded into a farmhouse and shot dead four persons.

One terrorist was killed in an encounter with the security forces in Majitha area of Amritsar District.

The encounter took place when the scooter-borne terrorists opened fire at a naka [patrol] party on being challenged.

Some arms and ammunition have been recovered from the killed terrorist, who has not yet been identified.

Iran

Prime Minister Addresses IRGC Commanders

LD2809163388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0928 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Speech by Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to IRGC commanders; date, place not given]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings and salutations to the imam of the ummah—our ummah—to the immaculate souls of the martyrs of the Islamic revolution—martyrs from whom our country, our nation and the entire great Islamic ummah derives its honor and dignity. Greetings and salutations to the immaculate souls of the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, without which there would have been no revolution. [passage omitted]

One thing that we must bear in mind regarding the cease-fire, as it were, and if it should lead to peace, is that the IRGC is expected by our nation to continue to remain the beacon of the values of the Islamic revolution and to guard those values throughout the depth of our society. You have seen for yourselves how your friends or brothers rolled in their blood to preserve those values. [passage omitted]

Obviously, in light of our economy, our situation, and the resources available in the country, we are forced to make maximum use of our resources in the best possible way. A country's national defense can be achieved only in the context of that country's economic and political realities. If we are a poor country unable to solve our industrial problems, our people's own problems, or to stand against the powers being built in the region in every respect, it is natural that our military apparatus, however purposeful, will also be unable to defend our system.

With the assistance of big powers, we can see the dynamism in neighboring countries. In fact they feel danger from an independent, powerful system emerging in the region. So, when we talk about national defense we see that it cannot be seen only in terms of its military dimension. If in a country surrounded by so many enemies and exposed to so many plots, we are unable to provide the appropriate weapons, secure the necessary technology, meet our people's basic needs or develop our people [to face those challenges], national security will continue to be shaky against domestic counterrevolution and against various violent assalts.

During the war we realized that we were facing difficulties in obtaining simple equipment needed for transportation. You look at such problems in the context of the war. In the future, these problems will be more complicated. We are forced to think in a comprehensive sense about our country. Our defense system must be based on a more comprehensive plan in terms of our economic and diplomatic moves—it should be a part of that complex. All these matters form a coherent and interrelated whole. These matters can be a contributing factor in the picture we have in our minds about our military forces.

Do we want, in our country, to maintain 5 million people in combat readiness, as it were? This would mean that everything will have to be frozen just to achieve that. The problem is that we would disintegrate from within. This would mean that we cannot do anything to rebuild our Armed Forces or bring about the extensive prosperity that an Islamic system can achieve in our nation. By the same token, does this mean that we should satisfy ourselves with a small military force in order to bring about prosperity to other spheres.

Bearing in mind the plots which surround us, we say this is not enough. We say this is a problem we will have to resolve in our country. There are ways in the world to adjust a country's military organization, a country's combat forces' organization, in line with other objectives of the country's system. This applies to all the systems of rule that exist in the world. [passage omitted] Let me give you an example. If we do not increase our electric power generation capacity threefold in the next decade we are likely to face some monumental economic bottlenecks in the country capable of bringing about a complete paralysis, preventing fundamental activity, leading to crises that will not be exclusively economic in character, confronting our economy with a range of stifling gaps, as

some economists would say. A country that aims to have a new and strong situation and to go for its enemies with an aggressive ideology and to stand against them cannot ignore issues of this kind.

We have seen some of these matters during the war. Now we are talking about reconstruction. We see the bottlenecks we face in steel production. This is not exclusive to reconstruction work. I would like to say that rebuilding our own army and the IRGC will also face problems when we have bottlenecks of that kind.

When we bear in mind that our country's population is capable of rising to 70 or 80 million people, we will realize that if we are unable to resolve these problems not only will our Armed Forces be weakened and any progress towards reorganization of our Armed Forces be defeated, but we will also face defeat in economic and social fields.

Just to give you an example: In order to keep the country's day-to-day activity going, to avoid severe economic crises, to minimize opportunity for counterrevolution, we will need, for instance, some 6 million tons of steel to keep us moving firmly and properly. We only produce 1 to 1 and ½ millions tons [annually]. We may be able to go on like this only for a while. If we are unable to raise capacity we will face serious difficulties in terms of building machinery—machinery needed at the front—in terms of being able to counter plots being hatched against us. Then the world of the arrogant will impose on us what it wills. [passage omitted]

The last point I would like to make is that one of the fundamental duties of any government in the Islamic Republic will be to strengthen the defense forces. This applies to any government, whether it exists under the Islamic name, be it part of the present system, be it supported by the leader, or be it supported by the Majlis. Under our circumstances, no government can shirk or ignore this fundamental and important duty. [repetitive passage omitted] We hope that better ways will be found in the future to further strengthen our Armed Forces and our IRGC by this government that is certainly serving Islam and the people.

O God we pray to you to keep us steadfast in the path our martyrs traversed. O God we pray to you to keep us loyal to the message of the blood of our martyrs. O God give us the opportunity to remain steadfast in our adherence to the principles of the Islamic revolution. O God grant us an uncompromising attitude toward blasphemy and infidelity. O God give long life to the imam of the ummah from whom we have all this path to brightness and dignity.

Velayati Welcomes Resumed Relations With Kuwait

JN2909063588 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Huda Tawfiq dispatch from New York]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told our radio that he welcomes Kuwait's decision to resume normal relations with Iran and the dispatch of three Kuwaiti diplomats to Tehran. He said: Kuwait is a neighboring country with which Iran seeks to establish good relations.

Cabinet Discusses Cease-Fire, 'Deprived' Areas

LD2809124688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] During today's cabinet session, important domestic and foreign events were discussed and reports were presented on the Iraqi forces' repeated violations of the cease-fire. Afterward, Mr Mirzadeh, the prime minister's executive deputy, presented a report on the outcome of his trip to the PRC and his talks with Chinese officials on the expanding trend of cooperation between the two countries and on the agreements on technological, economic, commercial, scientific, and research projects which were reached during their fourth meeting.

In the course of the session and in light of the significance of the two large Asian countries'relations, the cabinet stressed the need for full implementation of the articles of the memorandum of understanding and the decisions taken by the joint commission of the two countries. The cabinet also expressed gratitude for the PRC Government's support for UN Resolution 598 and its readiness to cooperate in Iran's reconstruction.

Continuing the session, the budget and planning minister submitted a report to the cabinet on the sixth phase of the studies undertaken to identify deprived regions of the country. This has been carried out in various provinces and towns on a large scale. In this report—the most comprehensive and accurate investigation of the country ever—the objective is to discover the policies necessary to eliminate deprivation.

Seventy-eight case studies have been investigated in 13 different seasons. On the basis of this report, the cabinet approved the allocation of 3 billion rials for miscellaneous development expenditures in 194 geographical locations—proposed in the Budget and Planning Ministry's report.

Iravani Addresses IMF, World Bank Session

LD2909093688 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 29, IRNA—Iran's Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani, in an address to the ongoing joint session of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank in West Berlin Wednesday outlined Iran's economic policies.

Referring to the world economic and financial problems he said the session provides an opportunity for discussing these problems—those of the poor countries in particular.

Further in his speech he said that the economic crisis which became wide-spread in 1987 continues to pose serious problems on the world economy. Despite the decline in inflation rate and a considerable rise in world economic growth, the picture still remains gloomy and the situation unstable.

The main reasons for the economic disorder are, balance of payment deficit, high interest rates and budget deficit in certain countries. The current economic crisis he said is caused by inability of the industrial world in providing economic stability, inflexibility of their economic system and their discriminatory trade policies.

He stressed that the present grave conditions call for establishment of a just monetary, fiscal and international order stressing that efforts should be made to stop widening the gap between the rich and the poor if not narrowing it.

He urged the IMF and the World Bank to pay greater attention to economic problems of the poor countries in their decision making. He also called on these bodies to make industrial countries to contribute more for the progress of the world economy. Turning to the debt of a number of Third World countries, Iravani said despite remedies of the past few years the problem has become more acute and this calls for finding a working solution.

Iravani further lauded the World Bank measure in increasing the general budget of the bank and said this will have a positive impact on Third World countries. This was the reason that the Islamic Republic of Iran despite its engagement in the Iraqi-imposed war increased its payment to the bank.

Turning to domestic developments in Iran, he said that acceptance of the UN Resolution 598 by Iran last July on ending the Iraq-Iran war, proved to the world that Iran is after a lasting and just peace and to this end it has not fallen short of any effort.

As for measures taken for improvement of the country's economy he said the shift has been towards promoting export of non-oil goods to lower the country's dependence on oil revenues. During last year non-oil exports amounted to more than dollars one billion.

He also touched on interest-free Islamic banking system in Iran and described it as a successful experience. He added that despite the massive expenditure for war efforts, the country has not borrowed any money and has maintained its independence.

Majlis By-Elections Scheduled for 29 Oct

LD2809132788 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 28, IRNA—The third Majlis by-elections are to be held on October 29 in 16 constituencies, announced Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi here Wednesday.

The elections will be held in Marbin, Golpayegan-Khansar, Khomeynishahr, Flaverjan [name as received] and Lanjavan (all in Esfahan province), Borujerd, Aligudarz, Kouhdasht [name as received] and Dore-Chegini [name as received] (in Lorestan), Jiroft (in Kerman), Masjed-e Soleyman (in Khuzestan), Darreh Gaz (in Khorasan), Kord Kuy and Torkaman and Gorgan (in Mazandaran), Bandar 'Abbas, Qeshm and Abu Musa (in Hormozgan), Boein Zahra [name as received] (in Zanjan) and Talesh (in Gilan).

Candidates are to register for the elections within seven days as of Thursday September 29.

'Voice and Vision' Director on Plans, Problems

LD2809105088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Sep 88

[Text] The subject of our first report is the interview given by the managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran [ITI] concerning that organization's activities and upcoming programs, as well as some of its difficulties. We draw your attention to this report.

In an interview with a central News Unit correspondent, Mr Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the IRI Voice and Vision—who is visiting Zahedan to inspect the ongoing project for a powerful shortwave radio station and the Voice and Vision's Sistan and Baluchestan station—commented about the IRI Voice and Vision's activities, the organization's ongoing programs for providing greater radio and television coverage in border provinces and regions, and its lack of success in this field.

He said: After the victory of the Islamic revolution and in light of the special features of that revolution, the revolution's enemies, including neighboring countries, began broadcasting decadent programs on various radio and television channels. In order to confront this conspiracy of world arrogance, especially during the years 1981-1985, the Voice and Vision took certain steps—including the setting up of one television and two radio channels, the launching of a shortwave transmitter for foreign broadcasting, one network for protecting the country from wavelengths [va yek shabakeh baraye khatt-e defa'i-ye keshvar az nazar-e amvaj], and one FM network.

He added: In order to expand and strengthen our radio and television stations, we require budgetary planning and human resources. We possess planning and human resources, but due to the present shortage of funds, some of our plans have remained unfulfilled, or the pace of their implementation has slackened. In this connection, he added: Our difficulties regarding our budget stem from the Ministry of Planning and Budget and the Majlis

committee in charge of allocating funds. In that ministry, the priorities for plans are evaluated on the basis of their profitability, not on the basis of their cultural and propaganda importance.

Mr Hashemi added: In the important programs to be implemented on the 10th anniversary of the revolution, there is not even one cultural activity, and none of the Voice and Vision's plans have been taken into account.

Referring to the fact that the Ministry of Planning and Budget and the committee in charge of allocating funds have, in some cases, reduced the budget approved by the Majlis to one-twelfth, or even to zero, the IRI Voice and Vision's managing director remarked: The Ministry of Planning and Budget calls for the Voice and Vision to make use of exchange and barter, but the items the Voice and Vision needs are among those strategic commodities that one cannot purchase from their main markets, even with cash. Also, our barter relations are with Turkey, Bulgaria, and eastern bloc countries, while the items the Voice and Vision needs should be purchased from Western bloc countries.

He emphasized: As the result of adopting such positions, the Voice and Vision's technical capability is weakened and its programs are being stopped. On the other hand, our enemies—frightened by the Islamic revolution and its culture and values—have made great investments and have set up a number of radio and television channels near our borders.

In conclusion, the managing director of the Voice and Vision expressed hope that the serving cabinet of Eng Musavi would pay attention to the fact that in a country like the IRI, in which a cultural revolution has come about and in which the main dimension of the revolution is its cultural dimension, the Ministry of Planning and Budget gives priority to that cultural aspect and not merely to economic issues, God willing. That ministry should appoint a deputy minister in charge of cultural activities so that greater attention will be paid to them.

New Projects Planned in Sirjan

LD2809193788 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Mr Mohammad Hashemi, managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran this morning broke ground for the establishment of the second shortwave radio station and a powerful 400kw medium wave transmitter in the township of Sirjan.

During the ground breaking ceremony Mr Mohammad Hashemi, in an interview with our reporter, referring to the need to establish the said radio station said: The present shortwave radio network of the country—the same network for abroad—was not able to respond to the needs of the country and the revolution in view of the role and the importance of the Islamic Republic and the Islmic revolution of Iran in the world.

Therefore, after surveying various parts of the country, the engineers of the Voice and Vision Organization found the township of Sirjan to be the most suitable zone to site the second shortwave station.

He said that to implement the first phase of the project, 10 powerful 500kw transmitters will be established in this region. Provision will be made to increase the number of transmitters to 16 units.

He expressed hope that over the next few years, and following the completion of this great project, when it comes to fruition, Voice and Vision will be able to fulfill its task in the best possible manner.

The managing director of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, meanwhile, explained the projects now being implemented by the organization and added: Besides the projects being implemented in Sirjan, the project on the mediumwave 400kw for strengthening the First Program and a second 100kw transmitter to strengthen the Second Program will be set up to provide coverage for the Province of Kerman.

Rafsanjani's Nephew Brokers 'Deal' With Turkey

TA2809182088 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] According to information we received, a barter deal involving the exchange of cement for fuel oil has been made between the Islamic Republic and Turkey. The middleman for this deal was Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nephew.

Our fellow strugglers have reported from Tehran that $15 million has been paid to Hashemi-Rafsanjani's nephew as a brokerage fee for this deal. Rumors indicate that intense differences have arisen among the regime's leaders over the distribution of this huge sum of money.

Pakistan

Yaqub Khan Meets With Soviet Foreign Minister

BK2909084788 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, had a 90-minute meeting with the Soviet foreign minister, Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, in New York yesterday.

Later, he told APP that he had a frank discussion with the Soviet foreign minister on various aspects of Afghanistan. He said they were also able to agree on a consensus resolution on Afghanistan that would be placed before the General Assembly when it takes up the issue.

He said the agreement would augur well for the future steps to achieve a settlement of the crisis resulting from the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan.

Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said they also discussed the exchange of Soviet prisoners of war [POW's] being held by the Afghan mujahidin and the POW's of mujahidin who are in the hands of the Kabul regime forces.

He also assured Mr Shevardnadze that Pakistan intends to implement the Geneva accord on Afghanistan faithfully.

Delhi: Ishaq Khan Rules Out Caretaker Premier
BK2909032688 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Text] The Pakistan president, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan, has ruled out the possibility of appointing a caretaker prime minister in the country. Talking to newsmen in Islamabad, Mr Khan said the government is busy making arrangements for the elections in November and there will be no caretaker prime minister before the polls.

He was commenting on the Lahore High Court judgment holding the dissolution of the assemblies by General Ziaul Haq as unconstitutional. He said to ensure impartiality in the November elections, the judiciary will be asked to play a key role in the conduct of the polls.

Daily on U.S. Envoy's Remarks, 'Balanced' Ties
BK2809111588 Rawalpindi HAIDER in Urdu 19 Sep 88 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Ambassador's Statement at the Senate Committee"]

[Text] The U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, Robert Oakley, has made a detailed statement at the session of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Pakistan's political issues.

He has revealed that the report of the U.S.-Pakistan joint inquiry team on the Bahawalpur incident [of the death of Ziaul Haq in the plane crash] will be ready within 2 weeks.

He said, as the aforesaid matter is an extremely sensitive one, the interim report of the inquiry will not be released.

Expressing his views about the forthcoming elections in Pakistan, Robert Oakley said the holding of elections on 16 November depends upon the Supreme Court verdict, because the leader of the Pakistan People's Party, Benazir Bhutto, has filed a petition in the Supreme Court to hold the elections on a party basis.

He has further said that both the civil and military authorities of Pakistan have agreed to abide by the verdict of the Supreme Court. Hence, there is a possibility of rescheduling the date of elections. Robert Oakley said next year the Soviet Union will complete the withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan. After that a broad-based noncommunist government will be formed there. In this way there will not be any danger to Pakistan and the United States will be in a position to concentrate on nonmilitary issues.

Although the U.S. ambassador to Pakistan has presented an extract of the situation in Pakistan while speaking to the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it is a pathetic situation that the Government of Pakistan is dragging its feet from keeping the people informed anything about the Bahawalpur incident.

But the U.S. ambassador is making the revelation that the inquiry report of the U.S.-Pakistan team will be complete within 2 weeks. Similarly, on the issue of elections also, the ambassador has made the stand of the Government of Pakistan clear and highlighted the possibility of rescheduling the date of elections, while citing the petition submitted at the Supreme Court.

Discussing the national situation in these columns the other day, we urged the government to fulfill its responsibility in removing various doubts and suspicions and to take the nation into confidence. The apprehensions expressed by us about the rescheduling of the dates of elections, were also raised by the U.S. ambassador.

However, it is imperative on the part of the government to break its meaningful silence [as published] and clarify its stand on the date and the mode of elections. Whatever the U.S. ambassador has stated at the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee in perspective of the Afghanistan problem also indicates that there will be a distinct change in U.S. policy in this region after the withdrawal of the Soviet forces and the formation of a broad-based noncommunist government in Afghanistan. And this change in policy will be pertaining to nonmilitary issues.

In other words, Pakistan will not be able to get military assistance from the United States thereafter. Because, as for the United States, Pakistan will be out of danger and it will not have the need for any more military assistance.

The indication of the U.S. ambassador, as mentioned above, is tantamount to the support for the stand of those political personalities who, while making repeated suggestions to the government to revise its policy on Afghanistan, are also making it clear that the U.S. interest on Pakistan will be limited after a total solution to the Afghanistan problem has been found.

Therefore, instead of completely depending on the United States, a balanced policy should be adopted between the two superpowers.

We feel there is still time for the present government to revise, to a certain extent, its relations with the Soviet Union and create a state of friendship and cordiality.

Friendly relations with the United States should never mean that our relations with the other superpower should take a turn toward tension or a downward trend. Balanced relations between the two superpowers only will prove to be beneficial to the stability of Pakistan.

Ziaul Haq's Son Claims Receiving Death Threats

PM2809110188 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 25 Sep 88 p 1

[Fahim Hamid report: "Ziaul Haq's Son: I Received Death Threats After My Father's Death"]

[Text] In a statement to 'UKAZ, Ijazul Haq, the elder son of late Pakistani President General Mohammad Ziaul Haq, has revealed that he has received several death threats since his father's death and he does not know who is behind them.

In an exclusive statement to 'UKAZ he said that during his stay in Pakistan he received threats and indicated that the Pakistani Government provided him with protection.

Ijazul Haq, who works as a bank manager in Bahrain and visits Pakistan occasionally, pointed out he does not rule out that enemies of Islam, in cooperation with internal elements, were behind his father's death.

He indicated the possibility that some young Army officers were involved in the blowing up of late President Ziaul Haq's plane is in the cards, especially as the plane took off from a military airbase and was under military security protection.

Ziaul Haq's son emphasized that the incident which claimed the life of his father was not caused by an internal fault in the plane, but rather by sabotage. He expressed full confidence in the impartial investigations being conducted by the government.

Asked about the future of the application of Islamic shari'a in Pakistan, Ijazul Haq said it is his country which needs the Islamic shari'a, not vice versa.

He urged leaders of the political parties in Pakistan to abandon their internal and sectarian differences and unite to confront the enemies of Islam.

He indicated that he cannot run for office, although some parties want him to and are exerting great pressure. He thanked the Saudi Arabian Kingdom for its support for Pakistan in all circumstances.

Sri Lanka

'Maximum Alert' as By-Election Gets Under Way

BK2909062788 Hong Kong AFP in English 0532 GMT 29 Sep 88

[Excerpts] Colombo, Sept 29 (AFP)—Security forces in north central Sri Lanka went on maximum alert Thursday [29 September] as a by-election in the area got underway, officials here said.

The ruling United National Party (UNP) is almost certain to win the Horawapotana constituency as the main opposition groups are boycotting the election, political analysts here said.

Some 42,700 voters are eligible to vote Thursday, election officials said. Besides the UNP, two independent candidates are contesting the by-election.

A spokeman for the leftist United Socialist Alliance said they were not contesting the by-election because they wanted general elections. "We will not be distracted by side-shows," the spokesman said.

Residents in the area contacted by telephone said policemen were seen guarding polling booths as well as key government establishments in the area.

"The Army is on standby to provide additional assistance necessary for the police," an official said, adding that tight security measures were taken amid reports that anti-government militants might create violence.

At previous by-elections, the Sinhalese militant Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP—People's Liberation Front) attacked election officials and threatened voters to stay away from the polls.

At the last parliamentary election in 1977, the UNP won the seat with majority of 9,000 votes over its arch rival Sri Lanka Freedom Party. [passage omitted]

The polling is due to end Thursday afternoon and the result is expected early Friday, officials said.

Premadasa Stops in Hong Kong, Speaks on JVP

BK2809123588 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] Prime Minister R. Premadasa, concluding his weeklong visit to China yesterday, left for London where he will receive the award in international housing competition.

Sri Lanka's million houses program was adjudged the winner for 1987 in the competition organized by the Building and Social Housing Foundation of Britain and the UN Human Settlements Commission.

During a brief stopover in Hong Kong, the prime minister participated at a reception organized by the Sri Lankan community in the British colony. The Sri Lankans were eager to know about the situation in their home country and the prime minister answered several questions put forward by them.

They covered the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement, the JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna], the crisis in the north and the east, elimination of poverty, restoration of law and order, the fight against bribery and corruption and the prime minister's future program of action.

Mr Premadasa said that the problems facing Sri Lanka could be solved through unity, understanding among the various communities and through discussions. He said that law and order could be restored by equal treatment to all sections of people and through examples.

The prime minister pointed out that poverty could be overcome to a large extent through basic changes in the political, social-economic, and administrative setup.

The Sri Lankans asked the prime minister whether the JVP was responsible for the murders and acts of violence now happening in some parts of the country. He replied by saying that the JVP is now a recognized political party, adding that any group or individual is considered innocent until the law ruled otherwise after a court trial. The prime minister said that he was unable to put the blame on the JVP as the law had not done so. At the same time, Mr Premadasa added the JVP had not claimed responsibility for any crime.

Nepalese King Stops Over on Way to Maldives

BK2809144588 Colombo Domestic Service in Tamil 1230 GMT 28 Sep 88

[Text] As part of his visit to South Asian countries, Nepalese King Birendra arrived at Katunayake Airport at 1345 [0815 GMT] this afternoon and left for Maldives after making a 3-hour stopover at the airport. The king was accompanied by Queen Aishwarya, Foreign Minister Upadhyaya, and senior officials.

As the king disembarked from the plane, Minister for Regional Development Chelliah Rajadurai, Mrs Rajadurai, and Minister for Textiles Wijepala Mendis received him. Then, the king and his entourage were led to the VIP lounge at the airport. There President Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene received the Nepalese king and queen.

After holding a short round of talks, the leaders of both countries arrived in the Airport Garden (?Hotel) for informal talks. A Sri Lankan delegation led by the president's secretary, W.M.P.B. Menikdiwela, held talks with the senior officials of Nepal at the VIP lounge on the next SAARC summit to be held in Pakistan. A joint declaration was issued at the end of the talks.